



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

Monday, April 27, 2020

8:30-10:00 AM

Via Zoom

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.

1. Present: Christine Henningsen, Jennifer Potterf, Dawn Cornelius, Mary Visek, Kim Hawekotte, Jim Hubbard, Margaret Vacek, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
2. Announcements
 - a. OYS Updates
 - i. At the April 16th Steering Committee meeting the ability to advocate and write letters of support was supposed to be on the agenda, but was bumped due to the Zoom format; will be on the June agenda
 - ii. Reimagining Juvenile Justice training in June will, hopefully, still be happening at UNO; participants in this second round are people who work with youth and families in mental health
 - iii. OYS backbone is still working from home at this time, not sure exactly where we will be working from starting next week
 - b. Member Updates
 - i. All Communities Outreach is gathering donations of cake mix, frosting, decorations and Mother's Day cards to youth and families on Saturday, May 9th, for Mother's Day, 112 E. Mission St., Bellevue, or can make monetary donations at www.allcommunitiesos.org.
 - ii. Douglas County is submitting an OJJDP grant application for Reducing the Use of Isolation in juvenile facilities. Five agencies will be awarded, with a maximum amount of \$600,000 over 3 years. If awarded, applicants may begin their proposed projects on or after October 1, 2020.
3. Follow Up Items
 - a. Work Plan - Co-chairs added dates and parties responsible
 - i. Approve additions
 1. Additions approved

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**.

4. Kim suggested that the group discuss policies and practices related to motion to transfer from adult to juvenile courts. Including the time period between request and decision; cases starting in juvenile court as opposed to adult, etc.
 - a. Senator Pansing-Brooks introduced a Bill that addressed such policies

5. Activity
 - a. Legislative updates
 - i. YRTC's
 1. No new updates as Legislation Hearings were suspended due to current pandemic
 - ii. Use of confinement
 1. Legislation passed and should go into effect July/August.
 - b. Status of Advocacy Guidelines Memo – OYS
 - i. The memo was placed on hold for the April meeting; however, will be placed on the June OYS Steering Committee Meeting.
 - c. Best practices – Small work groups
 - i. There are 4 action steps under Strategy 3- Codify National best practices for youth and families involved or at risk of the becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, which eliminate systemic barriers: Detention, Diversion, EM/Tracker and Mental Health/IEPS.
 - ii. A Doodle Survey will be sent out requesting all workgroup members to identify which small working group(s) they would like to be part of (detention, diversion, EM/tracker and Mental Health/IEPs). The group also discussed adding a 5th small workgroup of Develop strategies for 2020/2021 related to policy and practice that this group will focus on, starting with motion to transfers.
 - iii. The small groups will meet the months of May and June, and report back to the larger group, when we resume in July.

6. Next Steps
 - a. Karla will send out the Doodle Survey.
 - b. All members to respond to Doodle Survey.
 - c. Small workgroups will meet in May and June to discuss next steps including action, implementation, etc.

7. Feedback Survey – Sent out

Next Meeting: Monday, July 27, 2020, location TBD. Small workgroups will meet in May and June and report out to the large Policy Group in July; thus no large meetings in May or June.

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