



**Operation Youth Success
Re-Entry Task Force Notes**

April 23, 2020

3:30pm-5pm

Meeting via Zoom

Re-Entry Mission Statement:

The mission of OYS Re-Entry is to increase the number of juveniles successfully reintegrated back into schools and the community through coordinated transition support, thereby increasing overall academic success and ultimately reducing recidivism.

This mission is two-fold:

- 1) Supporting reentry and residency in the community following any out-of-home placement and;
- 2) Supporting the efficient reentry to school/educational program/work as part of the transition process.

- Welcome
 - Present: Jen Beck, Steve Snodgrass, Derek Brown, Hansel Gonzalez, Steve Snodgrass, Shannan Garcia, Jennifer Brockman, Suzi Busby, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
- Member Check-In and Agency Updates
 - How are you?
 - How has your agency/school adapted their practices?
 - Derek: Youth continue to be admitted to DCYC; however, most placements have place a hold on accepting new admissions. Have found that there has been an uptick in kids running away from placements. He has been in touch with Julie Zimmerman and OPS is enrolling kids again, but they are not able to earn any more credits for this year; enrollment for next year starts May 1st. Probation is focused on gun violence, as there has been an increase in gun use in the last month.
 - If the kid has been in DCYC for 14 days with no symptoms, are placements taking them? It is still difficult to get placement to take the kids, a lot of the youth leaving are going home.
 - Suzi: Staying busy with Blackburn, since she is the only counselor there. Wanted to let us know about a donation program called Enable Omaha. The flyer with more information will be included with the email sent out with the notes.
 - OPS did receive a grant for 2,000 iPads for students. Students should contact their principal/administration to obtain one.
 - Hansel: D2 Center is working from home like everyone else. Doing a lot of phone and video work with their students. Are mostly working on bringing current grades up. Students are able to raise their grades; however cannot earn new credit. They are still taking new students who need help. Here is the link to how the D2 Center is moving forward during Covid-19: <https://www.d2center.org/2020/03/d2-center-operational-changes-in-response-to-covid-19/>. If you have any questions, please reach out.
 - Jennifer: Westside is working hard to maintain contact with their students through drive-bys, providing hotspots, online learning, working to help their seniors graduate, etc. She spends a lot of time supporting staff, have been doing training and professional development and able to still pay them through that.

- Shannan: Has done a lot of random work for Boys Town. Getting creative with connecting with other organizations. Boys Town is seeing clients, but they are struggling to connect with some.
 - Steve: Steve has been working a lot with families who want to apply with Cox for the \$10/month internet; Cox requires a letter from the school that shows eligibility for free/reduced meals and a copy of a report card. Most school work has moved to online credit recovery. He is concerned with the silence – concerned about families struggling with job loss, reduced hours, food shortage, etc. He has been sharing a lot of resources.
 - Jen: DCYC has shut down one of their units and anyone who comes in has to be in quarantine for 14 days. One teacher a day is allowed in to hand out assignments, etc. All staff are wearing masks.
- Gaps that need to be filled during this time
 - Hansel: A lot of their students have lost jobs; they are connecting them with resources if they are actively looking for employment. Running into issues with lack of internet and/or phones.
 - Shelly Salter is sending out resource emails Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you are not receiving these let Debora know and she will get you on the list.
 - If you haven't liked the OYS FB page yet, please do so, as we provide a lot of resource updates on our page. If you have anything you'd like to get the word out about, send it to us and we can post/send out.
 - Feedback Survey - Sent out

Next Meeting: May 28, 2020, location TBD

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**.