



Operation Youth Success Families Work Group Notes

Tuesday, June 16, 2020
9:00-11:00 AM

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. Welcome & Introductions
 - a. Present: Margaret Vacek, Michaela Jackson, Shelly Salter, Kimara Snipe, Tom Hanks, Jasmine Jones, Marlon Wofford, Maria Valadez, Rodney Evans, Dwite Pedersen, Vicki Brewer, LaDonna Jones-Dunlap, Dawn Cornelius, Judy Gutierrez, Lakeisha Phelps, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
 2. OYS Updates
 - a. This Thursday is the OYS Steering Committee meeting, 8:30-11am, via Zoom; the link is on the OYS website calendar, <https://operationyouthsuccess.org>
 - b. Will continue to hold our work group meetings via Zoom through July
 - c. Nebraska Hands and Feet is a grassroots organization that started in March with a lady in Plattsmouth who got together a group of friends to make a small number of masks for healthcare workers; to date they have made over 75,000 masks which have been distributed both nationally and internationally. If anyone needs masks, you can fill out a request on their website, www.masks4medics.org.
 - d. All OYS work groups/task forces have made changes to their work plans to intentionally include RED in their work
 - e. RED Committee's RED Conference will have a flyer coming out, hopefully, this week with more information
 3. Community Updates and Events
 - a. ENCAP Mobile Pantry at Thanksgiving Church, 3702 370th Plaza, in Bellevue on Saturday, June 20, 11am-1pm, no appointment needed, SNAP assistance will be available, fresh fruits and vegetables will be distributed while supplies last, open to anyone who wants to attend
 - b. All Communities Outreach Services will be holding their Father's Day Ice Cream Topping celebration on Saturday from noon-2pm, will hand out about 300 baskets

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- c. All Communities Outreach Services 2nd Annual Family Camping Trip will be July 17-19 at Camp Cedars in Fremont; Call 402-257-1122 to register, registration ends July 10, \$30 per person (\$10 per day), some scholarships are available, and transportation is included
 - d. OPS has partnered with YMCA for the Fresh Produce Project, giving away boxes that have about 23-27 pounds of fresh produce, and you can find out more at <https://metroymca.org/produce-project/>;
 - e. Juneteenth is being celebrated this month on June 19; Omaha Freedom Festival at the Malcolm X birth site, 3448 Evans St., admission \$40
 - f. Latino Center is thinking of reopening the 2nd week in July and are planning events during that week, following all the social distancing guidelines, will have packets in Spanish to help families understand the new SNAP and Medicare/Medicaid guidelines, and other information; also thinking of doing candy goody bags with ice cream on Sundays. Will provide more information when things are set since it's all tentative at this time.
 - g. Latino Center also has a collaboration with Juan Diego Center and Whispering Roots to deliver emergency food pantries to family members who have COVID or who don't have reliable transportation to get to a food pantry, we connect with them to get delivery to their home; deliveries happen twice a month, first and third week of every month, and deliveries happen from noon to 4; if you know of someone who needs this service you can contact Maria directly at mvaladez@latinocenter.org, send her their name and phone number and she will contact them and fill out the application over the phone (very simple application questions just so they know how much food, etc. the families need)
 - h. JDAI work groups will be doing the same as OYS, being very intentional with regard to RED
 - i. MAYS will be taking two groups to Colorado for their annual Hoods to the Woods. They are also looking at creating a similar event for females in Wyoming
4. Discussion: Community Engagement to Reduce System Barriers as they relate to Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- a. The tough conversations need to be had
 - b. What do we need to do as system advocates to reduce system barriers
 - i. We need to be involved in all aspects of our government: leaders, decision makers, police department, etc.
 - ii. There are concrete changes that can be made at the system points
 - iii. Civic engagement
 - iv. When you see something, you have to say something; don't be passive
 - v. Kimara is trying to get a meeting with the president of the police union
 - vi. Need to have an auditing organization for the Citizen's Review Board
 - vii. Continue working to change policies
 - viii. Worried that once the pandemic ends and things get back to "normal" that everyone will forget about these times and stop actively fighting for change
 - ix. Recommended everyone read *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo
 - x. Further list of books to read:

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1. *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America* by Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer
 2. *Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood* by Jay MacLeod
 3. *All Our Kin: Strategies for Survival in a Black Community* by Carol Stack
 4. *All You Can Eat: How Hungry is America?* by Joel Berg
 5. *American Apartheid* by Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton
 6. *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare* by Jason DeParle
 7. *At Home on the Street: People, Poverty, and a Hidden Culture of Homelessness* by Jason Adam Wasserman and Jeffrey Michael Clair
 8. *Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor* by Virginia Eubanks
 9. *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream* by Barbara Ehrenreich
 10. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* by Katherine Boo
 11. *Beliefs about Inequality: American's Views of What is and What Ought to Be* by James Klugel and Eliot Smith
 12. *Being Black, Living in the Red: Race, Wealth, and Social Policy* by Dalton Conley
- xi. Be the change you want to see
 - xii. Recognize your implicit biases
5. Updates on work plan action items
 - a. Tabled to next meeting
 6. Video & Family Guides Update
 - a. Tabled to next meeting
 7. Family Council: Speak, Act, Change (A Family Justice Council-It Takes A Village)-let's select a date for end of July/Aug
 - a. How do we make this work? Can we do something virtually?
 - b. Invite people through networks, social media, etc.
 - c. The group supports doing something virtually
 - d. Rodney brought up another opportunity; MAYS has been working with LaDonna's sister who has a project that she wants to do with the families of the kids that MAYS serves, promoting healthy lifestyles through conversations about a healthy mind and body, recognition of others, you're healthy when you're helping others, you're healthy when you're being respectful of others. It's being put together now and information has been verbally presented to the parents; it would be at MAYS and, obviously, would have to be at their comfort level.

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8. Juvenile Justice Council
 - a. Held first social activity since COVID last week
 - b. Working on a clean-up activity around the areas of Lake St. to Maple St. on 24th St.
9. Family Engagement 3.0 Training and Programming-identify July topic
 - a. Tabled to next meeting
10. Next Steps
 - a. Marlon and the other members who were in the small group and previously worked on the Families Council, will talk to come up with a date for the virtual informational meeting, then we can change the flyer and get it out
11. Feedback Survey – sent out

Next Meeting: July 21, 2020, from 9am to 11am, via Zoom

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