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

Introductions
- Present: Margaret Vacek, Vicki Brewer, Michaela Jackson, Shelly Salter, Dwite Pedersen, Tom Hanks, Rodney Evans, Lakeisha Phelps, LJ Davis, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

Lived experience shared by LJ Davis

OYS Updates
- Still working from home at least through June 1st
- During June we will be allowed back into the CEC, but they are requesting that numbers be limited and people come back in limited numbers
- Work groups will be held via Zoom in June also

Member Updates
- NFSN is opening up a little this week; employees are being asked to come into the office a couple of times a week
- CHI is going to take over the psychiatric program at DCYC in June
- Youth at DCYC have started video visitations and unlimited phone calls are now being allowed
- Shelters are working well with DCYC on getting kids out of DCYC as well as they can
- Probation offices opened back up this week, with restrictions on how many people can be in the office, wearing masks, etc.
- Juvenile Court has partially opened up for contested cases, but they have quite a few restrictions; if uncontested they are continuing to do phone or Zoom hearings

For Families
- Deputy Chief Gonzalez has coordinated volunteer seamstresses; if you are interested in helping with sewing please contact him at greg.gonzalez@cityofomaha.org

Operation Youth Success is bringing people together to decide what aspects of juvenile justice in Douglas County need to change and how that change will happen.

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.
- 100% cotton fabric donations are being accepted at Grace United Methodist Church, 2418 E Street, Tuesdays from 10am to noon and Fridays from 3pm to 6pm
- Nebraska Hands and Feet
  - Has been around since about the end of March 2020
  - Started as a grassroots group with a lady in Plattsmouth who got together with some friends to make a small number of masks
  - To date they have made over 50,000 masks, have over 100 seamstresses, and have distributed throughout the US and internationally
  - If you go on their website, masks4medics.org, you can request masks
  - OYS has made a request for 1,000 masks to hand out to our work group members so we all have them to give out to people
  - If you know of anyone who might need community service hours there is the opportunity to assist the organization by cutting out the 7” x 8” and 8” x 10” fabric rectangles used; that alone can save them time they can use sewing
  - If you would like to make a donation of fabric (best fabric is quilter’s 100% cotton), we can make arrangements to pick it up (wash and iron it first so it’s ready to be used)
  - If you would like to help by cutting the rectangles, they will bring fabric to cut (Rodney said MAYS would help with cutting)
  - If you take an old 100% cotton t-shirt, cut off the bottom hem and cut up 1” wide, 18” long strips, they can use them to make the ear bands
  - Monetary donations can be made on their Facebook page, NE Hands and Feet
    - www.masks4medics.org also takes monetary donations
    - If anyone is in need of masks, please let OYS know (we will receive them as they get them done, not all at once)
    - This would be a good way to teach kids a skill by teaching them how to use sewing machines by sewing masks; it’s a skill that can be used in many different professions or as a way to make money on their own

- Juvenile Justice Council
  - NFSN had some additional funding that they offered to provide for internet/phone service for a few months; they split the money so that everyone got the same amount

- Next Steps
  - Everyone talk to their respective entities, or challenge people personally, to donate fabric or donate cutting time
  - Rodney will talk to his parent’s group about us getting together with them in July, or maybe June, either virtually or in person (picnic?)

- Feedback Survey – Sent out

Next Meeting: June 16th, 9am to 11am, via Zoom

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