



Prevention Work Group Purpose Statement

Reduce system entry and recidivism by strengthening community support and increasing access to preventative services.

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Melissa Schaefer, Regina Williams, Phillip Burrell, Chase Vedder, Kyle Kinney, Aleah Stennis, Andrea Wright, Darren Flores, Ronda Newman, Lakeisha Phelps, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
2. Member Check-In and Agency Updates
  - a. Everyone identified themselves and provided a brief description of their agency and roles
3. Activity
  - a. Discussion: Community Engagement to Reduce System Barriers as they relate to Racial and Ethnic Disparities
    - i. Appreciate having this safe space to have these tough discussions
    - ii. It would be nice to be able to look at data, which has been difficult to obtain, to be able to discern what policies and processes need to be changed to keep juveniles out of the system
    - iii. Do feel that change is going to happen
    - iv. Project Everlast has realized the importance of young adults to have a safe place to talk about events and explain how they are feeling, as well as the people who work with the young adults, so they have put together webinars and trainings for both
    - v. Appreciate those people who are willing to ask questions, to learn and accept feedback
    - vi. Past talking about it, interested in making change, we need to be telling people where to show up so we can talk about making change; attending County Board meetings, City Hall meetings, show up
    - vii. Need to teach our young people how to protest effectively, how to use their voice in a healthy, productive way
    - viii. Would like to look at what is actually working and how we can support that

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- ix. When we think about our purpose statement, what are some of those things that stand out that we need to look at to take away those barriers of accessing resources, what are some of the practices and policies that are barriers?
  - 1. There are services that just don't exist
  - 2. There needs to be a safe place for kids to go throughout the evening, with maybe a counselor or mediator available, that their parents know they are at a safe place
  - 3. Services need to be available for non-system involved youth; funding is a huge barrier
  - 4. Mental health was something that the kids have brought up consistently; need someplace for a teenager "time-out" so they can get back to where they need to be
  - 5. Crisis response is something that can be used, when police are called a therapist is sent also and it comes with 3 months of aftercare (it is medical care so the parent has to be present to give permission), but there are more options needed
  - 6. There are no de-escalation programs that exist in the State of Nebraska; there were a couple that tried to get started but they ran into licensing, etc., issues
  - 7. Could we start at Youth Emergency Services (YES)?
  - 8. This is one of those areas that bleeds into child welfare, because if there were places available it could possibly prevent neglect and abuse call to the hotline
  - 9. Boys Town does have such a thing for their kids, their "town hall," when they are exhibiting behaviors that are unacceptable so they can calm down
  - 10. There should be a process for de-escalation that would prevent getting to the point of system involvement; a step-by-step process that could be followed by law enforcement
- x. Are there trusted community partners in the 68111, 68110 zip codes
  - 1. Abide Network used to be one, not sure if they still are available
  - 2. Is there a possibility for existing partners to expand to something like this?
  - 3. Could Project Everlast and YES collaborate, NFSN and HFS?
  - 4. Boys and Girls Club has been working for the last year on a grant to be able to have therapists that could rotate between locations, but haven't been able to obtain the funding yet

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- a. If the Boys and Girls club is able to open in July, staff will need to be patient with the youth as they have not been at the club in about 3-4months; this is an example of where the therapists
    - b. What could this group do to support Boys and Girls Club in obtaining funds? Could we assist in applying for CBA funds?
    - c. As we learn of funding possibilities, we will pass the information on to Regina
  5. Police are not equipped to handle these scenarios, it's time to come up with other options
    - xi. What meetings could we feasibly bring to the community to
    - xii. Would like to bring DCCR in because they have funding
    - xiii. We can advocate for awareness, letting people know what options are out there even though they're limited, include parents, grandparents, agencies, etc. in this awareness
4. Next Steps
- a. Ronda and Andrea will set up a time to meet with someone from DCCR
  - b. Andrea and Regina will connect
  - c. Assist Boys and Girls Club with obtaining funding for the therapist positions
  - d. Karla will follow up with OPD about the status of utilizing crisis response in their SOP
5. Feedback Survey – Sent out

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2020, location Via Zoom**

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