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.
are providing a lot of information about what the job market is going to look like and have added some educational support; OPS has provided a package and they have teachers who are part of their staff and they are delivering those in 15-20 minute increments. The younger kids are more hands-on, more creative, fun stuff for them to do. They have 8 clubs that are distributing evening meals, since the school district is providing breakfast and lunch for their families the need is the evening meal. By this Friday they are projected to have provided 30,000 meals; have partnered with No More Empty Pots so on Fridays they provide them with prepared, frozen meals that the families can take home and on Wednesdays they do pizza; families don’t have to be a member, if they’re hungry a meal will be provided. For their members, because they recognized that the elementary schools did not send devices home with the children, they have distributed 250 chrome books/laptops/tablets along with information from Cox Connect so they can use those devices. Their 4 gang specialists have been connecting with their highest-risk kids using the Zoom platform and they have parents in the case load that they contact every week just to see how they’re doing. On Monday their gang specialists will start using their vans and taking 25-50 of the sack lunches and going to the areas where kids are hanging out, to connect with them, and to get the vans out and about in the community to remind people that the Boys and Girls Club is still out there and active.

f. Heartland Family Service, as well as other organizations, are experiencing funding issues and are concerned with support of the workforce and it trickling down to the amount of families not being able to get the services they need.

III. Activity

a. COVID discussion - avoiding system involvement /further system involvement
   i. Current Barriers
      1. For some of the youth, it is required that they have jobs. Unfortunately, many have lost their jobs during this time.
         a. If we could get fabric to OHB, the kids could work on cutting the fabric and, possibly, learn how to sew the masks.
      2. Idle time and lack of engagement, trying to be creative in getting them engaged and keep them engaged.
         a. Project Everlast asked for NE Hands and Feet information and suggested that they might be able to provide some type of stipend for youth who would help out with this project.
      3. There’s a large percentage of kids who the schools haven’t been able to connect with during this time and if those kids don’t show up when school starts back up and no one knows where they are, we may see an upswing in system-involvement with these kids.
   ii. Strategies
      1. Connect with youth using Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, anything that engages them.

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.
2. In the forums we held last year at the Boys and Girls Club, the 3 top three things the kids said they needed were a mentor (someone who’s always there, that can be reached, does things with them, positive support), mental health, and positive community activities/engagement; they need someone they can talk to.

3. Boys Town National Hotline has ‘Your Life, Your Voice’ which is their online and social media presence where kids can reach out and talk to a crisis counselor by phone, chat, text or email, 24/7, so they can reach out and talk to a counselor at any time, whether its emotional issues, relationship issues, suicidal thoughts/ideations, and with the COVID situation there has been a big upswing in calls about family dynamics and runaway issues; it’s a free app or access it on the website. There are resources also available on the app.

4. Re-engaging youth is going to be something that needs to be thought about in the next few months.

IV. Announcements
   a. OYS Updates
      i. OYS has been working remotely and holding virtual meetings during this time. Most likely, we will continue to do so through mid-June at least.
   b. Nebraska Hands and Feet
      i. Has been around since about the end of March 2020
      ii. Started as a grassroots group with a lady in Plattsmouth who got together with some friends to make a small number of masks
      iii. To date they have made over 50,000 masks, have over 100 seamstresses, and have distributed throughout the US and internationally
      iv. If you go on their website, masks4medics.org, you can request masks
      v. 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 anyone is in need of masks, please let OYS know (we will receive them as they get them done, not all at once)
      vi. 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
      vii. 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)
      viii. 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
      ix. If you would like to help by cutting the rectangles, they will bring fabric to cut
      x. Monetary donations can be made on their Facebook page, NE Hands and Feet

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.
xi. This would be a good way to teach kids a skill by teaching them how to use sewing machines by sewing masks and this organization is willing to show them how; it’s a skill that can be used in many different professions or as a way to make money on their own.

V. Next Steps
   a. Everyone talk to their respective entities, or challenge people personally, to donate fabric or donate cutting time

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2020, via Zoom