

## Child and Youth Services Committee Meeting

### Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

The meeting convened at approximately 1:15 P.M. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the June 1, 2017, issue of *The Daily Record*. The County Commissioner present at the meeting was Chris Rodgers. Others present during the meeting included Brad Alexander and Mark LeFlore, Douglas County Youth Center; Shawne Coonfare, Juvenile Assessment Center; Amber Parker, Operation Youth Success; Pam Murphy, Administration; Nick Juliano, Boys Town/Youth Impact; Laura McCormick; and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office. Chris Rodgers chairs the Committee.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>

#### Douglas County Youth Center

- Brad Alexander said the May average populations at the Youth Center were
  - 85 in Secure
  - 12 in Staff Secure
  - 28 in the H.O.M.E. Program
- The average length of stay went up again. It averaged 49 days from January to the end of May.
- The population today is
  - 83 in Secure
  - 0 in Staff Secure
  - 26 in the H.O.M.E. Program
- The last of the Staff Secure youth left on May 31, so that program is closed.
- EPIC funding from the Sherwood Foundation has been discontinued. It will end on June 30. A resolution is being prepared to present to the Board to make the termination official.
- There was one graduation from a high school in Bellevue on May 25 and another is scheduled for July.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on June 13 and 14.
- The Barnes and Noble book drive on May 6 raised \$543.52.

- Commissioner Borgeson has requested that the Youth Center reach out to the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging to look into the foster grandparent program. Mark LeFlore is in contact with Harry Parker and a meeting is scheduled for July 10.
- Commissioner Rodgers asked about the departure of the EPIC program.
- Mr. Alexander said the decision by Sherwood actually came down to the numbers. The Youth Center appreciates the support of the Sherwood Foundation but understands the rationale for discontinuing the program: the Center did not have enough youth involved.
- Mark LeFlore said it was an excellent program where students were earning credits and also receiving some mental health services. The program was offered at no cost over the past 2 ½ years. Many students could have been helped, but the Center received only 2 probation youth during this time period. It was staffed for 10-15 students, but averaged around 5. EPIC will continue until the end of June.
- Mr. LeFlore said the challenge was getting youth committed to participating in the program. Mental health for youth and their families was part of the program from the beginning.
- Commissioner Rodgers requested a conversation with Mr. Alexander about the program.
- Mr. LeFlore said they met with Dr. Pope and Dr. Savlos who are going back with CHI to prepare an interlocal agreement. Once a draft is received, the Youth Center will work with the County Attorney's office to prepare an agreement to present to the Board.

#### Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)

- Shawne Coonfare thanked the Commissioners for their resolution of sympathy at the Board meeting for Kim Culp.
- JAC will be fully staffed at the end of the month. The data analyst position was a challenge to fill, but the analyst will begin on June 26. The top priority of the analyst will be the JAC Annual Report.
- The Report will hone in on some of the data points that Commissioners have said they wanted to see. The goal is to have the report finalized to present to the Board in August. It will come to this committee first.
- In the meantime, Operation Youth Success (OYS) has been helping the JAC with truancy and status case data that has been shared with truancy stakeholders and

will be presented to the community at attendance meetings in the next couple of months.

- Under LB 561, the Juvenile Justice Institute (JJI) is responsible for evaluating and reporting data on all diversion programs and all of the programs that use Community Based Services funding. A lot of JAC data flows through them. JAC is working closely with JJI to insure consistent and accurate reporting of data.
- JJI has taken on an additional project for Douglas County: Risk Needs Responsivity model (RNR), which matches the risks, and needs of youth with the services they need. They published a one-page information sheet that serves as a guide for the state matching risk and needs to programs.
- The statewide Diversion Committee has, as one of its top priorities in the next fiscal year, working toward using data to inform all of their efforts. The goal is to use data across the state to insure there is consistent, uniform reporting and evidence-based practices
- The Diversion Committee is working on a training academy with a focus on all of the areas that are most important to serving youth effectively: implicit bias, trauma, etc. All assessment and divergent personnel will receive the same training.
- One of the main focuses for training locally is with the metro area Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition because of the increase in youth who are exhibiting suicidal tendencies. There is also additional focus on families to help engage them in services to help kids.
- The Statewide Diversion Committee is under 561 and is headed by Amy Hoffman.

### **Operation Youth Success**

- Amber Parker said that the RNR model guidelines will be published in the upcoming Operation Youth Success (OYS) newsletter. This should be distributed before Friday (See attachment).
- OYS received a reminder from Cynthia Kennedy that all Community Based Aid (CBA) grant funds must be obligated by 5:00 P.M. on June 30, 2017. No funds will be carried over and any remaining funds will revert to the Crime Commission.
- Requests for Proposals for CBA projects for the next fiscal year (which begins July 1) have been sent and published and those RFPs are due on June 14. The RFPs are all on the Purchasing website. Included are RFPs for

- Youth Prevention Services
  - Peer Mediation Restorative Justice Training
  - Youth Initiated Mentoring
  - Youth Athletics for Violence Prevention
  - Refugee Advocacy Services
- The target population for these services is youth ages 11-18 years old.
  - Commissioner Rodgers asked if there were any cuts to the CBA budget and Ms. Parker said they had not received a final budget document from the Crime Commission. She said she would share that information when she receives official documents.

#### Other Business

- Commissioner Rodgers said there has been some movement on a one-stop facility for Juvenile Justice. The Building Commission is doing a study to provide some options for consideration. Currently they are looking at the existing Youth Center location, but he said he is open to all possibilities.
- Mr. Alexander asked if anyone from the Building Commission was reaching out to discuss the plans for a new Juvenile Justice Center.
- Commissioner Rodgers said Jerry Leahy was in charge of the study.
- Commissioner Rodgers said the state Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative had picked up the Disproportionate Minority Contact project.
- Mr. LeFlore said he would like to be involved in the project.
- Commissioner Rodgers said there is a new city administration and there may be some new North Omaha initiatives the Committee would be interested in.
- Commissioner Rodgers said there would be no meeting in July because of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.
- Laura McCormick expressed a concern that the beginning of the meeting was not recorded and that Child and Youth Services Committees had not been consistently recorded and posted; the meeting started 15 minutes late; and the Committee had not been meeting regularly. None of today's DCYC report was recorded by video. Other committee meetings are religiously recorded and posted on You Tube. As she discussed at the Board meeting earlier, the goal is to increase public awareness and transparency.
- Ms. McCormick said she had requested in writing information from the Sherwood Foundation and OYS, but had not received that information.
- Commissioner Rodgers said he challenged her statements. The Child & Youth Services Committee meets consistently on the first Tuesday of the month at

1:00. The beginning of today's meeting was audio recorded. The Clerk's office representative is at every meeting and all meetings are recorded and posted on You Tube. The only time the Committee does not meet is when there are budget meetings, and there have been no conflicting budget meeting times this year since those that were held were presented at the Board meeting itself.

- Commissioner Rodgers said that questions regarding OYS were answered to the best of their ability. Sherwood is a private organization and the Committee has no control over their responses.
- Ms. McCormick said she thought she heard in the Board meeting that Commissioners were not up to speed on what was happening in committee meetings.
- Commissioner Rodgers said the Commissioners can choose to attend meetings or not. There is now a monthly juvenile report that is presented at the Board meeting. The next presentation will be on June 13.
- Mr. Alexander said his report was ready for next Tuesday's Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.