

Child & Youth Services Committee Meeting
Douglas County, Nebraska
Tuesday, October 2, 2018

The meeting convened at 1:00 P.M. in Room 903, Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE. 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 September 25, 2018, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Chris Rodgers, Clare Duda, P.J. Morgan, and Mary Ann Borgeson. Others present included Brad Alexander and Mark LeFlore, Douglas County Youth Center; Pam Murphy, A'Jamal Byndon, Catherine Hall, Diane Carlson and Patrick Bloomingdale, Douglas County Administration; Shawne Coonfare, Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center; Janee Pannkuk, Operation Youth Success; Deborah Neary and Yesenia Valenzuela, Midlands Mentoring Partnership; Luis Jimenez, Larry Storer; and Kim Bollow, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's Office. Douglas County Commissioner 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>.

Time markers for when each topic/item occurs during the video are in parentheses.

Introduction (0:00 to 1:00) Commissioner Rodgers led introductions around the room.

1. Presentation by Midlands Mentoring Partnership (1:00 to 32:00)

Deborah Neary, Midlands Mentoring Partnership: gave overview of history of mentoring in the area; then also data, needs, and goals of mentoring. She gave examples of other projects which help youth like My Brother's Keeper, Success Mentors, and The Empowerment Network. Ms. Neary relayed this organization's goal is to get youth matched with most applicable mentors, it is ran by a board of directors, and is four years old. She talked of program costs, community based aid, county funds provided towards those costs, and return on dollars. Ms. Neary relayed different groups who are sending referrals, along with some board members and their backgrounds.

Yesenia Valenzuela, Midlands Mentoring Partnership: explained her processes and differences between traditional mentoring and youth-initiated-mentoring. Some aspects include how the young person & parents suggest mentors, then choose from their own 2-3 suggested adults. She gave examples of how mentors are reviewed for possible selection, including background checks, along with examples of feedback she hears from possible mentors. Video can be viewed here: vimeo.com/156742127: MMP Recruitment Campaign.

Luis Jimenez, citizen: relayed concerns on how the previously discussed items benefit county government.

Brad Alexander, Douglas County Youth Center: offered support for the approach & the program(s) mentioned by previous speakers (noted above).

Commissioner Morgan: inquired as to how mentors are selected.

2. Department Updates (32:00 to 1:13:00)

- Douglas County Youth Center
- Juvenile Assessment Center
- Douglas County Health Department
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)
- Operation Youth Success (OYS)

Shawne Coonfare, Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center: described process which starts at Juvenile Assessment Center. She explained Attachment A "Juvenile Assessment Center Snapshot Q4 2017" as to its history of use, positive results, previous tools. Ms. Coonfare also relayed concerns in behavioral health numbers, process of Safety Plan (suicide prevention), and she explained the "Acknowledgement" number.

Larry Storer, citizen: relayed concerns in privacy laws and unsolved problems.

A'Jamal Byndon, Douglas County Administration: relayed concerns on accessing more details about numbers provided on Attachment A.

Mr. Alexander: provided overview of some data, career fair for kids, applications, possible new opportunities. He is getting September numbers together for average length stay and probation. Mr. Alexander addressed a previous request for median number, then he gave some estimates on expected final calendar year numbers and differences in reporting to be aware of.

Mark LeFlore, Douglas County Youth Center: explained new process of parent-teacher conferences and improved results since previous process.

Commissioner Rodgers: relayed concerns about labeling; addressed Attachment B, Memo regarding Community-based Juvenile Services Aid (CBA) Subgrantees. He mentioned to possibly gather a separate group to address additional questions/concerns for unmet needs.

Patrick Bloomingdale & Catherine Hall, Douglas County Administration: provided their interpretation on changes in funding for personnel.

Commissioners Borgeson, Duda, and Morgan also spoke during these items.

Janee Pannkuk, Operation Youth Success: addressed community based aid process. Gave upcoming dates/events.

3. Other Business (1:13:00 to 1:22:10)

Commissioner Rodgers: referred back to his interpretation of previously discussed Memo, funding, timing on addressing budget requests moving forward. He mentioned an upcoming group/email with DCYC, Creighton, UNMC, Judge Kahler; gave concerns of how to best address future resources in relation to State funding.

Commissioner Borgeson gave suggestions on how to move forward towards future budgeting cycles.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.