

Douglas/ Sarpy Truancy Initiative
Pre-Court Intervention Sub-Committee

June 14, 2007; 8:30 am at Concord Center

Members attending:

Mary Lee Brock.... Concord Center
Shawne Coonfare.....Juvenile Assessment Center
Brian Anderson.... Capstone Behavioral Health
Holly Filcheck... Capstone Behavioral Health
JoAnn Stevens... Douglas County West School District
John Oddo... Omaha Police Department
Joe Jeannette.... US Attorney Office

Talking points for meeting include:

- Develop statement of purpose for committee
- Conduct assessment of programs and initiatives that fit with Pre-Court Intervention Focus
- Confirm plans to report back to Steering committee in August
- Determine next steps for work of our committee

Updates from Steering Committee:

- Please note: The standing meeting time has been changed to 3:00 pm.
- At the June meeting Shawne did report to the Steering Committee regarding the focus of the Pre-Court committee – all other committees were pleased with this direction, as it is a much needed step that none of the other committees planned to initiate during these early stages
- At the last Steering Committee meeting Jerry Bartee from Building Bright Futures came to discuss the work of that initiative. He was able to hear the sub-committee updates, as well as receive a brief on the history and foundation of the overall initiative.
- Connie Rath of Gallup also attended the meeting. Gallup is in the process of recruiting members for task force membership using strength finders. All members of the truancy committee should be receiving an e-mail from Gallup regarding the questionnaire/ application for the Task Forces, as well as the link to complete the Strengths Finder.

Focus for Committee:

At this point the objective of focus for the Pre-Court Intervention Committee is to develop a Provider Map by identifying effective programs which address truancy.

Discussion regarding identification and assessment of programs:

- Our Provider Mapping will have two uses:
 1. Provide schools, parents, the courts, and other agencies a guide and resource to begin serving youth identified to have needs relating to truancy.
 2. Identify where gaps in service currently exist (in order to follow with the second tier goal of creating programs to fulfill all needs).
- When completing an assessment of what is happening in the community, it is important to look at the question of effectiveness of the programs. To best meet our shared goals of making attendance a priority, we want to encourage all programs to be as effective as possible. This is accomplished through using best practice in evidence based models. Capstone Behavioral Health of the Pre-Court committee will be a resource is reviewing the evidence based models. Again, the intent is to support each program and provider to be as effective as possible.
- This committee can serve as a resource and working group to help programs who currently offer programs related to truancy ensure that their program components meet with best or promising practice (research-based) guidelines. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn together.

Action Plan:

Concord Center will send identified providers a form to complete regarding the programs their agency offers. Concord Center will compile information as forms come in. The committee decided to add columns to the original form proposed by the Steering committee which ask for *what unique need in our community is being served by this program* and *what is the best practice, evidence based foundation for the program*.

Next meetings: During the summer months, the committee will stay connected via e-mail as we gather information about programs in the Douglas/ Sarpy area. The committee expressed a preference for an 8:30 am start time for the meeting. Concord Center will conduct an e-mail poll of current committee members to search for an optimum meeting day.

Shawne Coonfare and Brian Anderson will report to Steering Committee on August 7 at 3:00 pm at Project Harmony. Mary Lee Brock will present to large group at Douglas/ Sarpy Truancy Initiative meeting on September 14 at 8:30 am at Heartland Family Service.