Nebraska’s Connected Youth Initiative Statewide Meeting  
March 17, 2020 | 2:00 – 3:15 PM CT

**Purpose:** Convening of statewide network of stakeholders and leaders, establishing priorities, and sharing best practices to support Nebraska’s older youth system to improve equitable outcomes for unconnected youth\* in our state.

*\*unconnected youth are aged 14-25 that are unconnected from family and community support and have experience in public systems such as foster care, juvenile justice, probation, homeless, and/or are at-risk of homelessness and/or experienced or at-risk of human trafficking*

NOTES

**This meeting was recorded**

**Participants**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization/Agency** | **Attended**  **3/17/21** |
| Aaron Weaver | Project Everlast Omaha |  |
| Amanda McEntarffer | The Hub | x |
| Andrew Ritta | Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Co. |  |
| Angie Ludemann | Dept of Health and Human Services | x |
| Bailey Perry | Omaha Home for Boys | x |
| Becky Bounds | Child Saving Institute | x |
| Beth Nacke | NE Extension |  |
| Betsy Vidlak | Community Action Partnership of Western NE | x |
| Brady Rhodes | Community Impact Network in South Central NE |  |
| Brittney Williams | Project Everlast Omaha | x |
| Cassie Krueger | Central Plains Center for Services |  |
| Cindy Goodin | Youth Emergency Services |  |
| Cindy Reed | CASA of Midlands | x |
| Claire Hoff | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Cornelius Levering | NE Appleseed | x |
| Crystal Aldmeyer | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Dawn Coffey | MCC Opportunity Youth | x |
| Deanna Brakhage | Dept of Health and Human Services | x |
| Dinyal McCray | Child Saving Institute | x |
| Elci Warnell | Eastern NE Community Action Partnership | x |
| Fatima Parra | Young Professional | x |
| Felipe Longoria | Central Plains Center for Services | x |
| Gay McTate | Consultant | x |
| Greg Donovan | Society of Care | x |
| Jamie Bouslaugh | Norfolk Family Coalition | x |
| Jeff Smith | Central Plains Center for Services |  |
| Jessica Rockemann | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Joe DiCostanzo | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Julia Craig | Opportunity Passport Omaha | x |
| Julie Nash | Hall County Community Collaborative |  |
| Kathy Anstine | Dept. of Health and Human Services |  |
| Kayla Ramsay | Norfolk Family Coalition | x |
| Keenan Page | Omaha Home for Boys | x |
| Lana Verbrigghe | Children’s Square | x |
| Lauren Ward | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Lincoln Arneal | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Lindsey Drake | The Hub |  |
| Liz MacDonald | Community Action Partnership of Western NE |  |
| Lori Lines | Youth Emergency Services |  |
| Madeline Walker | NE Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence | x |
| Mary Pinker | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation |  |
| Melissa Friedrich | Families 1st Partnership | x |
| Michayla Stawniak | Young Professional | x |
| Mona Tarin | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation |  |
| Phillip Burrell | Project Everlast Omaha | x |
| Roger Doerr | Community Action |  |
| Rose Hood Buss | The Hub | x |
| Sara Quiroz | Office of Courts and Probation | x |
| Sara Riffel | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | x |
| Sara Shalon | Central Plains Center for Services | x |
| Schalisha Walker | Project Everlast Omaha |  |
| Sebastian Coolidge | Young professional – Project Everlast Lincoln |  |
| Shayla Dailey | Job Corps |  |
| Shelby Rice | Fremont Family Coalition | x |
| Tonya Breckenhauer | Consultant |  |
| Tori Courter | Families 1st Partnership | x |

**Policy Updates**

* Pandemic stimulus bill
  + Attachment was sent with the agenda describing benefits for young people with the additional funding
    - ETV eligibility will widen to include 26- and 27-year-olds for a time period. The specifics are still being approved as to how the additional funds will be provided to young people.
    - It is still being decided how the Additional Chafee funds will be used in Nebraska.
    - Youth voice has been used in a variety of ways to help advocate for how the funds could be best used.
* Nebraska: Youth in Care Bill of Rights & B2i legislation
  + Some reports that Senator Hunt has made it a priority to help push it forward; Cornelius with NE Appleseed stated it does not look like it will be pushed through.
  + B2i bills: concerns from conservative senators about the use of the dollars by young people (as reported by NE Appleseed).
  + Federal: Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act
    - Congressman Bacon co-sponsoring bill - creating a recognition system for youth in systems and widespread collection of that data and then provide TA to those institutions.
      * Currently no funding to the institutions that do this, so another bill may be released to add funding to complement this bill.

**CYI Continuous Quality Improvement / Evaluation**

* See attached PowerPoint Slideshow
* No Transitional Services Survey administration in April 2021
* Review October TSS results (slideshow)

**Cross-partner Sharing & Updates**

* Self-care and wellness events for parenting youth on March 19th: <https://www.facebook.com/events/181626126817419>
* **Next CYI Statewide meeting** – Wednesday, May 19th @ 2 PM CT
* **Older youth task force meetings:**
  + - Fostering Achievement in Nebraska (postsecondary/career) – March 31st @ 10 AM CT
    - Opportunity Passport (financial well-being) – TBD
    - Youth Leadership – TBD
* **Rep. Bacon (NE) and Rep. Kildee (MI) Town Hall - Fostering Postsecondary Success for Foster and Homeless Youth Act** – March 22nd 4:00 PM
* **Inclusive Communities Youth and Young Adult Workshop** – March 27th 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM CT
* **Court Improvement Project ‘Aging Out’ Webinar –** April 13th @ 12:00 PM