

## Douglas County Youth Initiative 2022 Overview



### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Annual Youth Congress:** Held at the State Capitol. 150 youth attend, working with elected officials

**Annual Youth Awards:** Recognizing youth who have overcome various hardships and difficulties

**Monthly "Youth Connections"** program; held at local high schools, where officials meet with youth. Four have been scheduled thus far.

**Lunch-n-Learns** for the adult community in 2023; topics might include: Sex Trafficking, Fentanyl dangers, and others as needed.

### WRAPAROUND

- Free
- Voluntary
- Work with families with youth, ages 5-21
- Work in the home, for 12-24 months
- Working to keep kids, safe, healthy, and remain in the home and attend school

WRAP works with families who have very complex needs.

WRAP families have gone from a 60% involvement rate to a 70% rate, showing an increase in complexity of family issues

Act as resource for the community, re: resources, problem solving, etc.

### DCYI PROJECTS

#### **Truancy**

Serve on Truancy Prevention CMP Cmte. Attend Court, receive referrals from Family Magistrate, work with youth on obtaining GED's, work with youth via WrapAround

#### **Juntos/Connexion**

Collaboration with CSU Extension and DCSD; program for families who do not speak English in the home, helping develop leadership skills and post secondary education.

#### **Teen Courts**

Working with Towns supporting their Teen Courts

**La Liga Jr and Sr:** Coordinate, promote and help fund free soccer games

#### **Implementation of ideas from Youth Congress**

A need that has been clearly identified as a priority

### New for 2022 - 2023, DCYI's Truancy Project

For youth in court for truancy, which is about 80 youth as of Sept. 2022, DCYI is developing a Truancy Continuum, partnering with the DCSD, Courts, and CASA.

#### Continuum:

- DCSD sends letters A, B and a truancy contract
- Set up a SARB, Student Attendance Review Board meeting
- Coordinate a visit to the JAC, Juvenile Assessment Center appointment
- And , for the Youth in Court, others are assigned to assist:
  - GAL, CASA and Wrap Specialist

Our program will work with the family and the youth; engage with the youth; help carry out assigned action items; will meet with youth once a week; will work with the CASA Mentor and the GAL to discuss strategies; communicate with the school on a regular basis, brainstorm as to what is working, what is not working, strategize on how to help student while in class, e.g., working with a student who does not attend, mainly due to not being at grade level, thus feeling overwhelmed.