

August 3, 2015

Dear Town Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to present our mid-year report. The Town of Castle Rock has been a major supporter of the Youth Initiative and on behalf of those we serve, we thank you for your support.

As many of you are aware, the Youth Initiative is a major collaboration between seven Douglas County entities. It is truly the definition of partnership as we all work together to serve our youth. The Town's contribution helps leverage each group's contribution. In addition to Castle Rock, we currently receive funding from the Town of Parker, City of Lone Tree, the Library District, the School District, Douglas County Government, and the Highlands Ranch Metro District.

With your annual contribution of \$19,800, The Youth Initiative provides numerous services and programs, reaching hundreds of County residents. The next page of this document outlines our projects, new and ongoing. As you will read, we added two new programs in 2015, a mentoring program and a program coordinating youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Current members of the Advisory Board:

- Josh Rivero, Councilman, Town of Parker
- Renee Valentine, Councilwoman, Town of Castle Rock
- Jackie Millet, Councilwoman, City of Lone Tree
- Dave Weaver, Commissioner, Douglas County
- Renee Anderson, Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Craig Richardson, Board of Education
- Demetria Heath, DC Libraries

Sincerely,

*Marsha Alston*

Contact information for the Youth Initiative:

Marsha Alston, Youth Services Program Manager / 4400 Castleton Ct., Castle Rock, CO 80104 / [malston@douglas.co.us](mailto:malston@douglas.co.us) / 303-995-4251



### Juvenile Justice Coordination:

HOW: Teen Court and Managing Family & Children Extensive Services Program (FACES) Managing 1451 program

- \*Helping coordinate services for juveniles in detention/court
- \*Working for system coordination
- \*Effectively intervening with youth and their families involved in the juvenile justice system
- \*Working with Probation and DA's office
- \*Begin process to meet and discuss replicating Castle Rock's Teen Court model to other parts of the County



### Family Engagement:

HOW: Methodology: WrapAround & Mentoring WRAP families

- \*Effectively intervene with youth who are endangered by their decisions and/or situation via WRAP and Mentoring
- \*Facilitate, mediate, and coordinate, family involvement with various systems
- \*Prevention! Work towards preventing children from entering various systems
- \*Work towards cost savings and healthier families
- \*Working with 16+ homeless population so they obtain their HS diploma
- \*Working with disruptive adoptive families



### Events/Programs:

HOW: Youth Congress, Outstanding Youth Awards, Lunch-n-Learn Series/Community Education

- \*Support youth and encourage their contributions via Outstanding Youth Awards
- \*Educate young people how policy is made in their community, support and expand opportunities for youth to express viewpoints via Youth Congress
- \*Engage young people via a representative on Advisory Board and planning committee for Youth Congress
- \*Offer adult community members the opportunity to interact with children in their community
- \*Hosting successful Lunch-n-Learn community education series



### Communication /Coordination and Resources:

HOW: Rapid Family Response and Rapid Community Support for families and professionals

- \*Support the community with resources, education and coordination
- \*Provide facilitation between families and various systems
- \*Publish the extensive Family Resource Guide:
- <http://www.douglas.co.us/documents/douglas-county-youth-and-family-resource-guide.pdf>
- \*Producing informational DCYI video - debuting Summer 2015

## **DCYI Programs:**

1. Continue to serve families through the WrapAround program receiving referrals from the Castle Rock Police Dept., Castle Rock's Teen Court program, and the School District, among many others.

**In 2015, we have so far received 90 referrals, with each Facilitator working with 10-12 families at any given time. We are on track to have more referrals than ever before.**

2. Special Events:

**The DCYI again hosted the Outstanding Youth Awards Event, recognizing students for their outstanding contributions, particularly under challenging circumstances. We also hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Congress, and a popular lunch-n-learn series, offering community members educational lectures ranging from brain development, to negating negative behaviors in children, to reducing screen time for children under 12.**



3. Continue to use our evaluation tool as we measure WrapAround's effectiveness and cost savings. In 2013, we drafted a tool to measure a child's risk factors when they enter the WRAP program.

**Tool is used to capture risk factors and the associated cost savings relevant to each family worked with.**

4. Research and connect with new funders in order to establish new lines of funding.

**The Youth Initiative received a \$30,000 grant from the State of Colorado in 2015 to implement WrapAround for youth with serious mental health concerns.**

5. Begin the process of collaborating and facilitating with other jurisdictions to implement Teen Court in two remaining areas of the County that do not provide the program.

**DCYI, along with the County Manager's office, has met with: Castle Rock and Parker's Teen Court Coordinators, the DA's office and the City of Lone Tree to coordinate and implement Teen Court/Restorative Justice practices to non-served areas. We are working on expanding these services to assist families and juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.**

6. Letter of support from a Castle Rock family:

Marsha-

Thank you so much for all of your help and guidance through this journey over the last year. I wasn't really sure if we would get to celebrate this day. Although [redacted] is still trying to figure things out, I think he is at least pointed in the right direction.

Thank you for using your gift of being able to look past his troubled and confused turmoil and nudge him in the right direction. Thank you for looking beyond our heartbreak and frustration and reminding us of our ultimate goals with him. Your willingness to help, knowledge of the community and determination along with the wrap around program have been a blessing. Sincerely, [redacted]