

August 3, 2016

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.

Current members of the Advisory Board:

- Josh Rivero, Councilman, Town of Parker
- Renee Valentine, Councilwoman, Town of Castle Rock
- Jay Carpenter, Councilman, City of Lone Tree
- Dave Weaver, Commissioner, Douglas County
- Renee Anderson, Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Wendy Vogel, Board of Education
- Tiffany Curtin, DC Libraries
- Matt Krimmer, Town of Larkspur

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 / 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 2016, we have so far received 75 referrals, with each Facilitator working with 10-12 families at any given time.

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 8th Annual Youth Congress, and a popular lunch-n-learn series, offering community members educational lectures ranging from “Drugs Parents Need to Know About,” to brain development, to negating negative behaviors in children.



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 \$40,000 grant from the State of Colorado in 2016 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.



Douglas County School District
Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

Personalized Learning

*Jason Germain, PhD
Chief Student Advocacy Officer*

Dear Supporters of the Douglas County Youth Initiative:

On behalf of the Douglas County School District's Personalized Learning Department, I am writing a letter of support for the Douglas County Youth Initiative and the Douglas County WrapAround program. The prevention and intervention efforts that stem from the two aforementioned programs offer a high level of support for the children and families of Douglas County and have played a key role in the academic success of many of our students. As a result, the Personalized Learning Department is in full support of their work acknowledging the need for prevention and intervention for Douglas County children and families.

Our department is also in support of The Douglas County Youth Initiative working to unite the community in their efforts to:

- Collaborate effectively as a seamless continuum of services;
- Advocate for system improvements that will better serve youth and families of Douglas County;
- Support youth and encourage their contributions to the broader community, via Youth Congress and the Outstanding Youth Awards Program;
- Actively intervene with youth who are endangered by their decisions and/or situation, via the WrapAround program;
- Support and expand opportunities for youth to express viewpoints; and
- Support parents with resources, education and unconditional care.

Douglas County School District and specifically the Personalized Learning Department has and will continue to be excited by the opportunity to partner with the Douglas County Youth Initiative and WrapAround programs to support youth and families in Douglas County. We are committed to working collaboratively to meet the needs of our community. Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support you can contact me directly at 303-387-0077.

Respectfully,

Jason Germain, PhD
Chief Student Advocacy Officer
Douglas County School District
jason.germain@dcsdk12.org