



2020 Douglas County Youth Initiative Mid- Year Report, Marsha Alston, Manager





EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF
WRAPAROUND by John Vandenberg,
Founder of WrapAround, Resident of
Paonia, CO

- SEVEN ISSUES THAT ARE FACING DC YOUTH AND FAMILIES TODAY



- DCYI is working to coordinate services/programs that already address these issues, leveraging existing work.
- Additionally, DCYI helps develop new ideas, building programs in incremental and tangible steps based on shared priorities. **See next page for examples.**

- **1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE - #1 REQUESTED TOPIC FOR YOUTH CONGRESS; THIS INCLUDES ALCOHOL AND VAPING**
- **2. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND COORDINATION**
- **3. ESTABLISHING A TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY**
- **4. YOUTH TRANSPORTATION**
- **5. YOUTH VOICE AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
- **6. PRO SOCIAL AND MENTORSHIP**
- **7. PARENT EDUCATION**



DCYI Programs:



La Liga soccer, basketball, 4H, and music lessons!



Youth Empowerment Seminars for kids in Truancy Court, same as kids in Teen Court, led by Sacred Walk, coordinating with Magistrate Moss



Project Upstream: Five meetings held at Mesa Middle School last year



Lunch-n-Learns for each of the seven identified issues, to include vaping and substance abuse,



Youth Transportation: effort to have local churches provide once a week rides for middle schoolers to stay late for tutoring and activities.



"Take 10" – a bi-weekly email highlighting various topics of interest, e.g., Back to School Anxiety, Self-Esteem, 40 Assets, and Reducing Stress in a fast paced County



Youth and Adult Dinner-n-Learn, sharing ideas and feedback

DCYI - Strategic *Doing* in 2020

1. Juntos, in partnership with CSU Extension

Juntos builds community and helps Latinx youth connect with post-secondary educational opportunities.

“Juntos” means “together” in Spanish. It is a program that helps Latinx youth (grades 8-12) and their families gain the knowledge and skills they need to bridge the gap between high school and post-secondary education opportunities. Juntos also works to unite community partners to provide culturally relevant programming for families. The program was first developed by North Carolina State University in 2007. Programs are available to English and Spanish-speaking students and their families in numerous communities across the US.

Juntos has three goals:

Empower Latinx families with resources to achieve educational goals for their youth.

Build relationships with Latinx communities so they benefit and become involved in Extension programs.

See more Latinx youth benefit from 4-H and Extension programs.

Juntos provides students and families with:

Family engagement: high school (6-week) and middle school (5-week) workshops, family nights, and events to increase collaboration between families and school districts, increase high school graduation rate, and empower families to pursue higher education.

Juntos one-on-one success coaching/mentoring: adult led program focused on academics, tutoring, life-skill activities, and community service so youth can achieve their goals.

Summer programs: Summer Academy, local summer programs, and other events.

4-H club participation: Latinx youth can participate in existing 4-H clubs or start new clubs.

As a result of participating in Juntos 4-H, students report a greater sense of belonging and confidence in their futures:

87% of participants feel like they now belong in school

93% of students feel that Juntos helped them belong at school

91% of youth improved their grades in school

92% of students feel confident that they will graduate from high school

In a three-year pilot coordinated by Oregon State University Open Campus, Juntos has shown:

100% high school graduation rate

100% college achievement rate

Decreased dropout rates for underserved audiences

Increased post-secondary access

Increased collaboration between families and school districts

Families become more engaged in their communities

DCYI - Strategic *Doing* in 2020

2. Truancy Project

I have thoroughly reviewed 21 names I received from our Magistrate who oversees Truancy.

As I was reviewing the students and pulling up Special Reports that are sent via email, I noticed some areas that I wanted more info. that I hope will give us insight into helping these youth. (Questions I have are also areas where I have seen issues while attending SARB's, Court, and school meetings. Plus talking to the kids and their families.)

More info. was needed. Before next court dates: Oct 14 and 21 respectively, I will send a survey with a cover letter explaining why they are receiving, who it was coming from, and what next steps will be. Below is a link to the survey. It can be done on phones. I can send the link by snail mail, since we do not have emails for everyone and folks easily ignore emails. If we don't get survey back, we can ask why during Court and also offer to help them fill it out, to start our engagement. Link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNKHHQ5>

This would be our 1st step. Future steps would be: find out more about possible substance abuse, by youth, family, or both; if Job Corps would be of interest; connect and follow up with GED info if they are interested; and research if Child Welfare has been involved prior, and yes they have in 20 of the 21 youth.

3. Virtual Youth Congress

YOUTH CONGRESS 2020-2021: How do you make real change? Start with the people closest to you and then move up. You want real change, it starts with the government closest to you!

Can you name your locally elected officials?

School Board Members? City Council and Mayors? County Commissioners?

State House Reps? State Senators? Special Districts? Have you attended a public meeting? Have you gone to the podium to speak? Have you campaigned for a ballot measure? Have you knocked on doors for a candidate or issue?

We will help our youth identify issues, research their issues, and develop an effective work plan on how best to make change. Youth Congress will poll youth on changes they want to see, create work groups for issues, and assign each work group a local elected official to develop a work plan.