

The Intervention

A combined collaborative response to families spanning across 3 specialized and established providers practicing in their areas of expertise.

- Greater Omaha & Attendance Services (GOALS) - Community/In-home agency
- Urban League Of Nebraska (ULN) - School Based agency
- Charles Drew - Full service community health center

Matching evidenced-based programming with established providers that possess a specialized skill set for an inclusive and innovative approach to families.

Coordinating tactics to bring community based support to a common area of need for students & families to:

- Increase school attendance
- Decrease court or “formal system” involvement for kids & caregivers for reasons related to chronic absenteeism
- Increase access to specialized, affordable, and sustainable medical/dental/behavioral health services for the entire family.

Program Priorities:

- Reduce racial & ethnic disparities by increasing access to family-driven services
- Early connectivity to services based on family strength & needs
- Enhancing family and community engagement to create productive avenues for increased communication

“The Best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second best time is now.”

-Chinese Proverb

CONTACT:

A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon
*Juvenile Justice Racial
& Ethnic Disparities (RED)
Coordinator*



Ajamal.byndon@douglascounty-ne.gov

1919 Farnam St, Ste LC2, Omaha NE 68183

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Georgetown University Capstone Project

Eliminating racial and ethnic disparities
(RED)/Ensuring race, equity and
inclusion in education



Project Outline

THE PROBLEM & GOALS

Problem: Chronic school absenteeism can be a pipeline for entry into the juvenile justice system

Goal 1: Support students & families in addressing barriers experienced by the entire family that contribute to chronic absenteeism

Goal 2: Reduce racial & ethnic disparities in the area of school attendance experienced by low-income, families of color.

THE GOAL:

Come back to Omaha and create a strategy that will allow for systems change through the lens of race/equity.



Background

In October 2018, Douglas County sent a team of people from different disciplines to GT University. The team participated in a week-long training on how to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the Juvenile Justice system.

Target Population

- Chronically absent youth, identified as missing school:
 - 18 or more days in the prior school year or
 - up to 15 days during the current school year
- Non-system involved (child welfare/juvenile justice/juvenile diversion) children and families
- Zip codes 68111, 68110, 68104
- 6th to 9th grade students in the following schools:
 - Middle schools = King Science & Monroe Middle
 - High schools = Benson & North
- Must be free & reduced lunch (poverty)

Meet the Team



Lead

A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon -
RED Coordinator for
Douglas County

Judith Gutierrez - St. Francis

Deputy Chief Scott Gray - OPD

Mark LeFlore - DCYC

Paulette Merrell - DCAO

Chris Rodgers - Douglas County Commissioner

Shelly Salter - NE Probation/JDAI

Dr. Ryan Spohn - UNO/NCJR, JJI

Cara Stirts - DCAO

Douglas County Attendance Report 2019-2020

Impact of **POVERTY** on Attendance:

48%

Students experiencing poverty in Douglas County

76%

Students who miss 15 days or more are experiencing poverty

Impact of **POVERTY & RACE** on Attendance:

87%

Black/African American students who missed 15 days or more, were experiencing poverty

55%

White students who missed 15 days or more, were experiencing poverty

Data provided by The GOALS Center and the Nebraska Department of Education