

Colchester Youth & Social Services

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 205, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

P: 860-537-7255 F: 860-537-1731 E: youthservices@colchesterct.gov



Youth First Coalition Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM | In-Person Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Ostrout, Anne Marie Maffuid, Samantha Van Zilen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Koji, Carol Wikarska, Russell Melmed

OTHERS PRESENT: Charity Benedict, Craig Scheel, Janet DePratti, Kylie Fontaine, Valerie Geato, Michelle Millington, Michael Mal, Daniel Carmody, Amber Carmody

1. CALL TO ORDER

Charity Benedict called this meeting to order at 5:45 PM.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES FROM 12/7/22

Approval of Minutes of the January 4, 2022 was tabled until the next meeting.

5. RESOLUTION RUN REVIEW

Charity gave the following report. Over 222 people registered this year. Profits were over \$4,000, mainly, because t-shirts did not have to be ordered this year. Monies raised from sponsorships were about the same this year. The cost of t-shirts significantly goes down when ordered in bulk. A direction we may pursue. Miranda Creative will be revamping our graphics with the direction of developing a theme that can be used year to year.

6. NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS FOR SECRETARY & VICE CHAIR

Charity brought forward applications and made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Since the Colchester Youth First Coalition is not part of the town charter, technically new Coalition members need not be approved by the BOS. Since the new members being recommended are not citizens of Colchester, the BOS can't accept the recommendations regardless of the modifications the Coalition made to the By-Laws. The Coalition will explore moving forward operating as a program of Colchester Youth Services rather than being a town board. The approach would be to have those who participate in the Coalition be voting members, rather than being required to live in the town to vote at the Coalition meetings.

7. LPC FUNDING – VAPE DETECTORS

- \$4100 of the Local Pension Fund (LPC) grant has been spent on vape detectors for the High School. The Bacon Academy Administration is working on collecting all the information needed

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to proceed with installing the detectors. A proposal will be submitted to the Board of Education once that process is complete.

8. DFC UPDATES, YR 4 PLANNING

- The year four budget proposal, due March 15, is in progress. The match requirement is 100%.
- Charity and Val met with Bonnie Smith of B. Weyland Smith Consulting, LLC., recommended by AHM (Andover, Hebron, Marlborough) Prevention Council. They use the Youth Voices survey instead of SERAC, which we use. CYFC has spent \$9-\$12,00 on SERAC services per year. The services and products from B. Wayland Smith are considered to be a better value and survey reporting is easier to understand and utilize.
- It was determined that CYFC can pay for after school counseling for a psycho-educational group and substance abuse education, as long as the main focus of the group is not cessation support. This can be explored further with Bacon Academy administration. Youth Services could potentially run these groups.
- Ann Marie also reminded us that UCFS used to have a successful collaboration in place that involved students with substance use infractions being referred to UCFS as part of the disciplinary procedures. This could be explored as a potential solution again.
- Ann Marie stated that Colchester Public Schools can explore School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) in their schools to provide immediate services to students with the schools, as other surrounding districts have done.

9. YSAB UPDATES

Youth Services has held interviews for the JRB Coordinator and is reviewing resumes received for and for Holly Rozanski's position.

10. COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

- There was poor attendance at the hybrid Internet Safety Talk which was held on January 12, 2023 and the Marijuana Education presentation held on January 31st. It was asked if the funding for Community Conversations could be better used in a different manner as parents are not as likely to attend these presentations post-pandemic.
- If we keep the Community Conversations the following was discussed to get the word out and make the information more easily accessible: advertise in River East, record the presentation in the Black Box theater, cut the recording into snippets and place as public service announcements, and / or place on social media. This way parents and students can access the information, on their own time, during their busy schedules.

11. SCHOOL COLLABORATIONS

The Youth Action Council (YAC) is developing marijuana messaging. Students discovered marijuana, although one of the primary substances used in the high school population, was not covered in the ninth grade health class. YAC believes more information about underage marijuana use would be very helpful to students. Also, there will be further discussion between Youth Services and Bacon health teachers to help spread messaging about marijuana, nicotine, and alcohol in health class.

12. COMMITTEE UPDATES

It was agreed to keep working on topics at this Coalition meeting that fall outside of the Marketing and Media subcommittee umbrella rather than holding additional subcommittee meetings.

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13. NEXT STEPS

Charity: Keep on the Coalition agenda: Resolution Run, Youth Services Building Status

Craig: Connect Bacon Administration to Old Lyme Superintendent

Marketing Committee: Discuss setting up a PSA video project as an alternative to the Mental Health Community Conversation

Val: Explore moving Coalition to a Youth Services program rather than town board

Charity: follow up with Sotor Technologies on additional vape detector questions

14. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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