

## Colchester Youth & Social Services

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# Youth First Coalition Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2022 | 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM | Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Russell Melmed, Anne Marie Maffuid, Samantha Van Zilen, Lauren Lorincz Ostrout, Dave Koji, Carol Wikarska

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Charity Benedict, Valerie Geato, Sophie Melmed, Denise Turner, Craig Scheel, Janet DePratti

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Russ Melmed called this meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

## 2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

## 3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

## 4. COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SERIES PLANNING

### 4.a. DISCUSS TOPICS

1. Russ suggested behavior health topics, e.g. coping strategies and treatment, as a Community Conversation. Charity stated this topic is good with our funding. Ann Marie stated there are therapists that can talk on the subject of treatment access and the Mobile Crisis Unit can attend as well. Sophie stated that most students and parents know a lot on the subject and including a working session would be helpful. Charity suggested starting in the Black Box auditorium and breaking out to students-only and parents-only groups.

2. Russ also suggested a QPR Training (Question, Persuade, Refer). Some Chatham Health District staff, Youth Services staff and teachers are trained as trainers.

3. Charity stated presenting the 2021 Developmental Assets survey data and the 2022 Youth & Community survey data to the public would be beneficial, ideally having the Youth Action Council (YAC) participate in the presentation. Sophie suggested to increase participation and make it more interesting, it would be good to make a game of asking both students and parents how they would predict the results before presenting each topic. Attendance could be increased by offering extra credit to students. Charity is waiting on the final reports from SERAC. She stated the 2022 data showed a significant decrease in usage which raises questions as to the youth concerns with confidentiality as this is the first time it was administered to students on their own personal school issued devices. SERAC indicated that many communities and even nationwide data is reflecting significant decreases in usage numbers possibly due to the pandemic limiting access and opportunities to use. It was also questioned by many at this meeting. It was decided to reschedule the CYFC Data and Evaluations Committee meeting from August 4<sup>th</sup> to Aug 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss what data to pull out of

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the reports and for the CYFC September meeting to be moved to September 7<sup>th</sup> to finalize plans for the first community conversation which will be the data presentation.

4. Charity suggested Developmental Assets as a fourth topic. CYFC would do the presentation. It is costly to have the Search Institute present, especially in person. However, there is funding in the DFC grant earmarked for an in-person training from the Search Institute if we can get a big enough group of parents and community members who have influence over young people. Dave suggested reaching out to the sports leagues to engage the volunteer coaching population to attend this presentation and also engaging some of the community members who have more social media exposure, such as Michelle Noehren, to try to boost attendance. Promoting the presentation on an episode of the Colchester-What's Happening Show on Facebook was also discussed.

### 4.b. DISCUSS PRESENTERS

- a. The Data community conversation will be presented by Russ, Dave, Charity, Val & Sophie
- b. The Behavioral Health community conversation can be presented by Ann Marie and UCFS staff. Dave also offered to participate in this presentation.
- c. Chatham Health, Youth Services, Val are all trained to present the QPR Training
- c. CYFC and possibly the Search Institute would present on Developmental Assets. Dave also volunteered.

### 4.c. DISCUSS SCHEDULE

- a. Proposed Schedule:
  - #1 Presentation of the 2022 Youth Services Data – September, week of 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> – Need to avoid Homecoming activities toward the end of month and Back to School Open Houses in the beginning of September
  - #2 Behavioral Health and Coping – Early November
  - #3 QPR Training – January
  - #4 Developmental Assets – March

## 5. NEXT STEPS

- a. **Russ:** Add topic to an upcoming CYFC Meeting - providing a way for students to communicate easily (e.g. text) in a crisis.
- b. **Russ:** Investigate trainers for QPR training.
- c. **CYFC Data and Evaluations Sub-committee:** Meet on Aug 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss what data to pull out of the 2022 Search Institute Report
- d. **Colchester Youth First Coalition:** Meet on September 7<sup>th</sup> to plan the first presentation.

## 6. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:29 pm.

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