

Colchester Youth & Social Services

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Youth First Coalition Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2022 | 5:30 – 6:45 PM | In Person Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russel Melmed, Sam Van Zilen, Ann Marie Maffuid, Carol Wikarska, Lauren Lorincz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Koji

OTHERS PRESENT: Charity Benedict, Valerie Geato, Kylie Fontaine, Craig Scheel, Chris Bennett

1. CALL TO ORDER

Russell Melmed called this meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion for approval of April 6, 2022 meeting minutes, Lauren Lorincz, Ann Marie Maffuid seconds, no discussion, motion passes with unanimous approval.

5. LPC UPDATES

An update was provided on the Local Prevention Council funding and the associated projects.

6. YOUTH SERVICES UPDATES

6.a. PROGRAM UPDATES

Summer programs are currently being promoted, there is still space for parents to sign up. There are also some scholarships available. Parents should contact youth services for information. Youth Services has submitted 3 applications to ARPA: funding for no-cost counseling, funding for a new youth center and funding for a part-time JRB and Truancy Case Manager. Carol Wikarska proposed a motion to draft a letter of support to the Board of Selectman for the Youth Services ARPA requests in order of the no-cost counseling support, the new youth center and the part-time case manager. Motion was seconded by Sam Van Zilen, no discussion, motion passed unanimously. Russ Melmed will draft the letter.

6.b. COMMUNITY WELLNESS FAIR

The Community Wellness Fair is May 15th from 11AM-2PM at WJJMS. Details of the event were reviewed.

7. DFC UPDATES

7.a. SUB COMMITTEE UPDATES

The Youth First Coalition functions as the Youth Services Advisory Board and fulfills the requirements of the Drug Free Communities Program. The goals of the Drug Free Communities Program are to strengthen and enhance the functioning of the Coalition and to reduce youth usage of Marijuana and Alcohol. The Coalition does this by developing culturally appropriate substance use prevention and education initiatives based on local data collected annually from Colchester Youth and Parents.

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The Data & Evaluation committee shared an update on the SERAC Youth and Community Surveys. Ideas to encourage more parent participation in the community survey were discussed. The Marketing & Media committee is in the middle of the Developmental Assets video campaign. Updates were shared. Reminders to Board members to film their video if not done so already. The Education & Training Committee needs to schedule a meeting to begin planning for Community Conversations for the 2022-2023 school year. They should include a presentation to the community on survey data from the Developmental Assets Profile and the SERAC Youth & Community Surveys as well as a presentation for parents on current concerns regarding youth marijuana use related to adult use legalization. Russell Melmed motioned to request time on Board of Selectman agenda to provide information on impacts and consideration on retail sales of Marijuana in Colchester. Second by Carol Wikarska. Discussion included preparing a fact sheet for BOS. Motion passed unanimously.

8. DFC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Board discussed recruiting new members, specifically parents.

9. REVISIONS TO BY-LAWS

Valerie is reviewing edits to By-Laws proposed by Russell Melmed and Jaqueline Rose.

10. NEXT STEPS

1. Charity will send out meeting invite for Education & Training Committee
2. Russ will draft the letter to the Board of Selectman regarding ARPA Applications
3. Charity will request time on Board of Selectman agenda
4. Val will complete review of By-Laws suggested edits

9. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

NEXT MEETING

June 1, 2022, In Person @ Youth Center

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