



Colchester Youth & Social Services

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 205, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

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



The Youth First Coalition is charged with the mission of promoting the social, emotional, and physical health and well-being of Colchester Youth. The coalition does this by 1) Advising and making recommendation on overall policy and program direction for the Youth Services Bureau, and 2) Developing culturally competent substance abuse prevention initiatives and increasing public awareness of the prevention of substance abuse.

Youth FIRST COALITION

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm In Person meeting at the Youth Center

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 1007 2848 Passcode: 165987

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84910072848?pwd=MHhMMkQ4LzAxMG4wTytETFJ1MVdBQT09>

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting To Order – Jacquelyn called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.
 - a. Voting members present: Jacquelyn Rose, Russel Melmed, Carol Wikarska, Ann Marie Maffuid, and Samantha Van Zilen
 - b. Voting members absent: None
 - c. Other Present: Holly Rozanski (Youth Services), Lauren Lorincz (Faith-Based Org), Kylie Fontaine (Youth Services), Craig Scheel (SRO), Sophie Melmed (YAC), Valerie Geato (Youth Services), Charity Benedict (Youth Services), Chris Bennett (Schools), Janet Depratti (volunteer), Dave Koji (community member)
2. Approval of Minutes- November 2021
 - a. Jacquelyn motioned to table approval of the November minutes to the January meeting; Russ seconded; all in favor; motion passed
3. Public Comments
 - a. Janet Depratti shared this is her first meeting; she is looking for local volunteer opportunities; and excited to learn more about the coalition.
4. Old Business
 - a. Marketing
 - i. Reviewed font options for the logo
 - ii. All meetings participants voted on which font to include in the final logo – Gibson received the most votes (7)
 - b. Operations and membership
 - i. Coalition recruitment
 1. Charity provided updates on coalition member recruitment.
 - ii. Member updates
 1. Two community members expressed an interest in participating in the coalition: Dave Koji and Lauren Lorincz.
 2. Jacquelyn motioned to recommend Lauren Lorincz as a board member to the board of selectmen; Annmarie seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

3. New board of education liaison has been identified-Rosemary Gignac. Charity will meet with her to familiarize her with coalition. Still waiting on board of selectmen and board of finance representative to be identified.
 - c. Sustainability
 - i. Resolution run planning
 1. Sponsorships – a number of local businesses have committed to being sponsors.
 2. Charity rotated a volunteer sign-up to support day of operations.
 3. Services and collateral – shirts are being designed; timer company confirmed; will focus on medals next.
 4. Donations – Need about 200 bottles of water and snacks for 250; Youth Services has a donation letter coalition members can leverage to solicit donations.
 - d. Program updates
 - i. Kylie and Holly provided updates on youth services programs and participation.
 - e. Youth Center/ARPA funds
 - i. Val shared concerns Youth Services has regarding the social integrity of the building, as well as concerns regarding mold and mildew (water leaks through the front door and in the roof; building lacks a foundation).
 - ii. Youth Services wants to submit an application to the ARPA committee requesting \$1 mil to renovate the senior center and have it become the Youth Center.
 - iii. Russ motioned the Coalition support Youth Services in submitting an application to the ARPA committee; Jacquelyn seconded; all in favor; motioned passed.
 - f. Other
5. New Business
- a. Operations and membership
 - i. Elections
 1. Samantha nominated Russ as Chair person; Ann Marie seconded; all in favor; motion passed. Russ elected as Chairman.
 2. Jacquelyn reviewed the types of ways community members can support the coalition (board member, sector lead (per DFC grant), volunteer and general member).
 - ii. Committee review
 1. Charity distributed committee role and responsibilities of each committee and shared who volunteered to serve on each committee.
 2. Jacquelyn asked Charity to work with each committee to schedule a meeting before the next coalition meeting.
 - iii. Review sector representatives
 1. Charity reviewed sector representative assignments. The coalition needs to recruit a sector representative for government and business.
 - iv. Review coalition work plan or deliverables for the year
 - b. Education and training committee
 - i. Community conversations
 1. Finalizing details for a community conversation slotted for January.
 2. Planning to have community conversations in February and March also.
 - c. School-based initiatives
 - i. SERAC is currently updating the survey. Hope to distribute to students in February 2022. Previously distributed in January 2019. Was supposed to administer in February 2021, but delayed due to COVID.
 - d. Marketing and media
 - i. Introduced Dave Koji who agreed to be the sector lead (DFC) for media.
 - e. Data and evaluation
 - i. See school-based initiatives.
 - f. Other
6. Next agenda: introductions; review and amend bylaws; elections for vice chair and secretary (if folks express an interest)
7. Adjourned meeting at 6:57.