

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

October 11, 2022 | 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | In Person Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lauren Lorincz Ostrout

OTHERS PRESENT: Charity Benedict, Valerie Geato, Holly Rozanski, Kylie Fontaine, Jeff Rodman, Janet DePratti, Michelle Melendez, Chris Bennett

1. CALL TO ORDER

R. Melmed called this meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A. Maffuid proposed adding agenda item to address additional promotion of Project Courage services in the schools. Agenda item added.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the Sept 7, 2022, meeting presented for review and approval.

Motion to table item to next meeting by: C. Wikarska

Second by: A. Maffuid

No Discussion

Vote: unanimous to approve

5. RESOLUTION RUN PLANNING

Discussion of tasks to be completed for the New Year's Day fundraising 5K race. Members volunteered for tasks. Discussion of design on new banners and yard signs. Marketing & Media Committee will take this on.

- Russ volunteered to contact the race timing company
- Russ volunteered to order the trophies
- Dave volunteered to contact sponsors

6. NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS FOR VICE CHAIR AND SECRETARY

Discussion of open appointments on board.

7. REVISIONS TO BY-LAWS

The Board will vote at the November meeting on the proposed revisions to the By-Laws.

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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8. PROMOTION OF PROJECT COURAGE SERVICES

Discussion of ways the Board can help to increase awareness of Project Courage among student and parents. Jeff shared an update on his efforts to increase visibility of services in the school. He is attending the weekly crisis meetings at Bacon. He visits the cafeteria during lunch waves. He also met with Principal Begue. They also discussed vape detectors for the school. Charity shared that information was provided to the Bacon Administration about the Vape Detectors. The Coalition offered to purchase vape detectors for Bacon. The Bacon Administration decided they needed more time to get Board of Education approval and plan for the installation and monitoring of the detectors. Chris Bennett expressed interest in having the vape detectors purchased for WJJMS.

- Charity will follow up with Katie and Jeff's progress with proposed ideas from last Board meeting.
- Youth Services can post on social media.
- YAC can make a TikTok.
- A flyer can go out in the Digital Backpack.
- Russ will draft a letter to Principal Amy Begue.
- Chris will email the Administration at Bacon.

9. NEXT STEPS

Charity- Add Vote on Revised By-Laws to next agenda

Russ- Draft letter to Amy Begue about Project Courage and assigning an Administrator to attend Youth First Board meeting.

Chris- Email Bacon Administration about promotion of Project Courage

Charity- Send Chris the info on Vape Detectors

Kylie- Compile list of Race Sponsors for Dave

Charity- Create spreadsheet with Race tasks and due dates

10. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM

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