

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

December 6, 2023 | 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM | In Person – Youth Center, 40 Norwich Ave.

ATTENDEES : Craig Scheel, Val Geato, Marquis Lawson, Luren Ostrot, Sam VanZilen, Blair Windsor, Kylie Fontaine, Michael Mal, Carol Wikarska

1. CALL TO ORDER

5:30PM

Motion to add presentation from Sean Shoemaker to the agenda as Item 4 unanimously approved.

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2023

Request to correct spelling of Sam Vanzilen

Unanimously approved

4. OPIOID SETTLEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE: SEAN SHOEMAKER PRESENTATION

Presentation from Sean Shoemaker to utilize opioid settlement funds for a K9 Wellness program.

Sean confirmed that he and the Fire Department will accept all liability, that the dog will spend most of her time in the station or with Sean. There will be no ongoing costs associated with the certification or with care for the dog. Reimbursement for the training and certification will only be asked for if certification is achieved.

Unanimously approved motion to reimburse Sean Shoemaker for the training of Molly using \$525.00 of Opioid Settlement Funds

5. RESOLUTION RUN

Volunteers, Sponsors, Marketing

Website is live. Race Timer replied to Russ and Amber but they have not been confirmed.

Approximately \$1,000 has been secured from sponsors, with another \$1,000 expected. 40 T shirts have been ordered for volunteers. Marquis will ask Sean Shoemaker to deploy his Fire

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2023 DEC 18 AM 11:50
Gayle Furman
TOWN CLERK

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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Police for race support. Suggestion to ask Boy Scout Troops for race support – general consensus was that we will have enough volunteers without them. Promotion is underway, with an ad taken out in the Rivereast and an interview conducted by a reported with Val. Hot Chocolate will be served for volunteers. Craig suggested adding a “Fun Run” component for little kids – general consensus was to table the idea and revisit for next year’s run when there is more time to plan for it.

6. SCHOOL SURVEY

Timeline, BOE Approval, Delivering the survey

Discussion of appropriate use of Dap vs A&B or some combination of Dap and core measures questions. Suggestion to use A&B in 8-12 grades, or just High School, with Dap in 6-7 grades.

Need to get more info from Search Institute on how the Dap and A&B questions compare. Must get on the 1/23/2024 BOE agenda. Russ will contact Heather Pettit to get added to the agenda.

7. JAN. 18TH COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Youth component

Based on “Talk, They Hear You” national campaign. Ann Marie Maffuid will facilitate. Consider reaching out to NHS to run and supervise a youth activity to make it easier for parents to attend.

8. MARKETING AND MEDIA 2024 GOALS

Marquis is scheduling a meeting with Dave Koji to plan. Focus will be recruiting new members to the coalition, and awareness in the community of the Coalition, its purpose, and activities.

Marquis wants to continue with the Reels campaign, which proved very popular with kids because of the great incentives and ease of participation.

9. YAC UPDATE

Marquis reported that there are a few new members from the Freshman class at Bacon Academy. There are 14 members total now. Potential new members are interviewed before being allowed to join. Then the parents receive a letter and the kids get a Swag Bag.

10. PROGRAM RECAP AND UPDATES

Blaire and Kylie reported that drop in is going well. Tuesdays after 2:00 is almost at capacity. The Work of Art program is ending and they are planning a celebratrion and to start a new group soon afterwards. “Mindful Moments” group has started up. They are considering a fun activity soon, like a Taylor Swift themed party.

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11. OTHER

No discussion

12. NEXT STEPS

- a. Marquis will email Sean Shoemaker to ask for Fire Police activation for Resolution Rus
- b. Russ will email Heather Pettit to get on the BOE agenda for 1/23/2024
- c. Marquis and Russ will meet with Search Institute to discuss surveys
- d. Marquis will ask Amber if the race timer has been confirmed for the Resolution Run

13. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:55PM

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