

Colchester Youth & Social Services

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Youth First Coalition Meeting Minutes

September 6 | 5:30 – 6:45 PM

Member Present: Russ Melmed, Carol Wikarska, Samantha Van Zilen

Members Absent: Jan DePratti, David Koji, Lauren Ostrout

Others Present: Valerie Geato, Kylie Fontaine, Craig Scheel, Sammy, Amaya, Maya

IN PERSON MEETING – Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER - 5:32

2. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - n/a

(No Quorum 6/7/23)

4. YOUTH CENTER UPDATES

- Programming is currently being held at WJ; hopeful to reopen the Youth Center by mid-September

5. DFC GRANT

- Discussed ways to spend \$25k promoting drug prevention - suggestions included resuming Youth first Fridays, activities on the green and a weekly contest for prevention tiktok videos

6. OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND

- \$50k received to date (18 year settlement period)
- There are rules detailing how the funds can be utilized
- Suggestion for NarCan training; providing transportation to clinics in East Hartford / New London
- UCFS/sub committee to meet to identify best ways to use the funds

7. RESOLUTION RUN REBRANDING AND REGISTRATION KICKOFF

- Russ working on procuring medals, updating website & buy a press for the new logo to be ironed on to t-shirts
- National Honor Society may be able to provide volunteers to help day of

8. PROGRAM RECAP AND UPDATES

- Flyers provided to the group detailing a variety of programs including After 2 at the Youth Ctr; Girls Circle, Work of Art, & Monday/Wednesday drop ins.

9. LPC GRANT – DUE SEPT. 15

- Discussion around efficacy of vap detectors at Bacon Academy
- Action - buy 2 new vape detectors; placement TBD (between Bacon & WJ)

10. NEXT STEPS

11. CITIZENS' COMMENTS - none

12. ADJOURNMENT - 6:48

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.