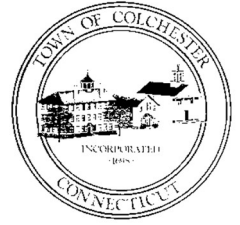




Colchester Youth & Social Services

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The Youth First Coalition is charged with the mission of promoting the social, emotional, and physical health and well-being of Colchester Youth.

Youth FIRST Coalition Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022 – 05:45 pm – 06:30 pm Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

COALITION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Russell Melmed, Anne Marie Maffuid, Samantha Van Zilen, Lauren Lorincz, Dave Koji

COALITION MEMBERS ABSENT: Carol Wikarska

OTHERS PRESENT: Charity Benedict, Valerie Geato, Rosemary Gignac, Sophie Melmed, Holly Rozanski, Denise Turner, Michael Hayes, Craig Scheel, Jennika Jenkins, Janet DePratti

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russell Melmed, called this meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the January 5, 2022, meeting were presented for review and approval.

Motion by:

S. Van Zilen

to approve the minutes of January 5, 2022, as presented.

Second by:

A. Maffuid

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

5. YOUTH SERVICES UPDATES

a. RESOLUTION RUN RESULTS

The 2022 Res Run raised \$3,011.65. About one-half of the t-shirts were left over. Val stated we will be using the t-shirts next year. Discussion occurred about the concern of new and no longer supporting sponsors would be represented on the already printed t-shirts. Val requested to have a September agenda item to start planning the Run earlier. Topics to include purchasing new banner and lawn signs, start marketing earlier, discussion of sponsor acknowledgement, maximizing revenue, increase registration fees, and minimizing expenses.

6. DFC UPDATES

a. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Data & Evaluation Subcommittee

- 1) Russ stated the SERAC survey is “nearing the finish line.” It has been balanced and validated against the DFC Core Measures. Board of Education has approved the survey for use in 2022 and 2024. Bacon Academy and WJJMS are looking to implement the survey in Mid-March. The next advisory at Bacon Academy is March 18th which is when the survey will be administered. The assumption is that students will participate to take the survey unless their parents opt out. Ideas to administer the survey to get the highest number of Senior students to participate were discussed since Seniors don’t get Advisory.

Marketing & Media Subcommittee

- 1) Dave stated the recruitment collateral is completed except the marijuana trifold which needs to be redesigned to a rack card.
- 2) The group is in the process of completing the Marketing & Media Schedule which includes the CYFC initiatives and all collateral (videos, posts, flyers, trifolds, etc.).
- 3) The team is currently engaged in the Developmental Assets campaign looking into creating videos that will resonate with the audience by having local businesses, parents and students in the videos.
- 4) The team is meeting with Miranda Creative on Friday March 4th to review templates they are providing.

School Based Initiatives Subcommittee

- 1) Charity stated the focus has been on Mental Health week. The program focuses on a different topic each day with Youth Services visiting Bacon and WJJMS during lunch waves every day to do trivia questions based on the daily topic. Students will spin the prize wheel to win candy, swag or enter the daily gift card drawing. Flyers are being distributed in the schools and to students via email about each topic with info on symptoms, coping skills and treatment options. Also, Youth Action Council created a video with Dave Koji to promote the week and it is up on YouTube and social media and is being distributed to students by school administration. This project is funded by the LPC grant.
- 2) SERAC Student Survey administration is being planned for March for grades 6-12
- 3) There will be a Community Wellness Fair on May 15th at WJJMS from 10-2pm. It will focus on mental health wellness, suicide prevention and mindfulness & coping skills for substance use prevention. In March, mindfulness training with the teachers and staff will include brief techniques they can use in class with students, to help the students cope with stress and anxiety. A toolkit for the teachers to use in the classroom will be included. This project is funded by the LPC Grant.

Russ stated as the CYFC Coalition and subcommittees execute programs, keep the objective and goals of reducing substance abuse in mind as part of the grant.

The group agreed to target having an in-person CYFC March Meeting to work on the CYFC project summary for next year’s grant renewal.

b. FUD DELIVERY CAMPAIGN RESULTS

The Food Delivery campaign raised \$240. Ten people have signed up for the All-Hands Email Initiative.

7. DFC NEW COALITION MEMBERS

Rev. Lauren Lorincz and Dave Koji have officially been appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

8. DFC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

a. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS FOR SECRETARY & VICE-CHAIR

Charity stated secretary and vice-chair positions are still open. Dave asked to be sent information regarding vice-chair.

b. SUBCOMMITTEES – NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS FOR SECRETARY & VICE-CHAIR

Charity stated chair and vice-chair positions are open in Data & Evaluation, School Based Initiatives, and Training & Education subcommittees. The Training & Education subcommittee is not yet up and running.

Val talked about the Family Dinner Project, a great program, and a useful source of ideas. She also noted the movies *Screenagers 1* and *Screenagers 2* as good references.

9. REVISIONS TO BY-LAWS

Russ stated that the town clerk and First Selectman got back to him and the CYFC can amend their by-laws without the Town Board of Selectman approval. The CYFC by-laws have been amended. They will be finalized and brought to the CYFC March meeting.

10. NEXT STEPS

1. Update on DFC Grant Deliverables
2. Finalize SERAC Survey and rollout in the schools.
3. **Charity:** Send out link to Mental Awareness Video – *complete*
4. **Russ:** Add Resolution Run Planning / Marketing to September Agenda
5. **Team:** Send volunteer hours at the end of the month to Charity
6. **Russ:** Finalize CYFC by-law updates for CYFC March meeting.

11. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM

13. NEXT MEETING

March 2, 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janet DePratti