



Colchester Youth & Social Services

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Youth Services Advisory Board/Youth FIRST Coalition Wednesday, February 6, 2020 5:00pm Town Hall Meeting Room 3

Members present: Vice Chairman Pam Scheibelein, Secretary Jacquelyn Rose, Russell Melmed, Elizabeth Allard, Lorraine Marvin

Members Absent: Chairman Linda Bromley

Others present: Valerie Geato, YSB Director; Christine Miskell, SERAC; Selectman Denise Mizla; Sue Hickey, Board of Education Liaison; SRO Shannon Owens, Kylie Fontaine, YSB Program Coordinator, Joseph Staley-Sisk, Tom Sisk

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 by Vice Chairman Pam Scheibelein

Jacquelyn Rose motioned to amend the item 2 on the agenda from Approval of December minutes to approval of January minutes, seconded by Pam Scheibelein, unanimously approved, Motion Carried.

2. Approval of January Minutes

Elizabeth Allard motioned to approve December meeting minutes, seconded by Jacquelyn Rose, unanimously approved, Motion Carried.

3. Public Comments: none

4. New Business:

a. YSB Budget:

i. Discussion regarding Substance Abuse Counseling Program

1. YSB has contract with Project Courage. The price increased from \$32 per hour to \$47 per hour for the 2019-2020 school year, which is significantly less than what other communities pay. The price will increase again for the 2020-2021 school year, from \$47 per hour to \$55 per hour, which is still less than what other communities pay.
2. The counselor currently provides services three days per week at the high school and provides individual counseling to about 35 students, facilitates group sessions, and smoking cessation programming.
3. YSB covered the increased cost during the 2019-2020 year by reallocating funds from the Local Prevention Council Grant and funding from the Connecticut Department of Education.

4. YSB asked the Board of Education to cover the additional projected costs for the 2020-2021 and they agreed. YSB will fund \$21,000 and Board of Education will fund \$15,000.
5. If YSB is awarded the Drug Free Communities Grant, YSB will secure a fourth day of counseling services for middle school students.
- ii. Vans: anticipate additional costs for van maintenance.
- b. **Other**
 - i. Pam Scheibelein identified concerns regarding youth crossing the street to the Town Green. YSB communicated they walk students to the Town Green for programming. 7th and 8th grade students can checkout of the Youth Center and go to the Town Green. 6th Grade students cannot. Discussion regarding crosswalk safety measures implemented in the past. Elizabeth Allard suggested a crosswalk sign with button and flashing lights.

5. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan: next strategic planning meeting is on 2/13 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Will review draft proposal and discuss next steps. Everyone agreed the Council and YSB can begin implementing activities while we await notification regarding the release of the Drug Free Communities grant.
- b. SERAC Survey: community that gets the best response rate per population will receive a \$1,000 award for prevention activities. Elizabeth Allard resent the link to the survey. Tom Sisk suggested having the Superintendent distribute the survey.
- c. Screenagers Community Conversation: about 70 people attended the evening session and four people attended the morning session. More of a focus on mental health than first film. Exploring how themes and lessons learned can be integrated into the strategic plan and professional development day with school district. Discussed that parents are not informed how to use available resource to manage child's device usage (i.e. cell phones, tablets). Tom Sisk shared examples of how he manages his children's device usage and recommend creating a parent training.

6. Local Prevention Council Initiatives

- a. Wellness Fair: funded with resources from the suicide prevention and mental health promotion grant. Will be implemented April 26th at the middle school. Discussed increasing the footprint of the children's market. Valerie Geato will contact Farmer's Market for potential youth vendors. Discussed modeling after the Acton Children's Business Fair, which incentivizes child participation. Will also need to redesign implementation of the Kid Zone, review required activities to earn t-shirt, and explore implementing a more rigorous evaluation to include more than attendance. Russel Melmed will draft evaluation.
- b. Drug Free Communities Grant: waiting on award application to open.

7. Next Agenda: Wellness Fair (breakout sessions, Kid Zone, Children's Market), Curriculum for parents regarding contemporary adolescent health, development, and well-being topics, and update re/ strategic plan.

8. Adjournment

Russel Melmed motioned to adjourn, seconded by Elizabeth Allard, all in favor, Motion Passed.

Respectfully submitted by Jacquelyn Rose.