



# Colchester Youth & Social Services

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## Youth Services Advisory Board/Youth FIRST Coalition Friday, June 19, 2020 via Zoom

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

Members Absent: Lorraine Marvin

Others present: Valerie Geato, YSB Director; Christine Miskell, SERAC; Sue Hickey, Board of Education Liaison; Kylie Fontaine, YSB Program Coordinator; Chris Bennet; Amy Domeika

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:32am by Vice Chairman Pam Scheibelein.

### 2. Approval of February Minutes

Elizabeth Allard motioned to approve February meeting minutes, seconded by Pam Scheibelein, unanimously approved, Motion Carried.

### 3. Public Comments: none

### 4. New Business:

#### a. Program updates

- i. YS worked from home March 17<sup>th</sup> through June 8<sup>th</sup>, but still operating. Trying to engaging summer programming to replace traditional programming, with a target start date the first week of July.
- ii. Starting a 6<sup>th</sup> grade transition program to support the transition to middle school. Will start off virtual and then transition to in-person programming (in very open spaces with distance).
- iii. Starting a leader in training program, which will hopefully transition to selectmen youth council. Ideally, a group of youth will meet with the first selectmen, school board, and other community leaders. Youth participants must be in at least 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Suggest having community leaders, including teachers and school administrators nominate peers. Also discussed having youth nominate one another.
- iv. Starting youth voices program for youth interested in civic engagement to discuss prominent issues impacting communities, such as racism. Noted the peaceful demonstration on the green was organized by youth.

- v. Continuing wireless wanderers program for middle school students. Middle school students assess and discuss their use of technology and explore alternative activities they could participate in.
  - vi. Programs will be low cost to accommodate families facing financial challenges. Scholarships will also be available to support participation.
  - vii. Briefly discussed the challenges youth and families are facing in the midst of COVID-19, specifically food insecurity. The schools have been serving an average of 100 meals per day and will continue to serve lunch through August 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a two-week gap with no food service between August 15 and when school begins. Began brainstorming ways to address that gap, including a cross-sector approach that engages the food bank, board of education, youth services, and other community agencies.
- b. Budget**
- i. Board of Finance discussed cutting program coordinator position. Youth Services successfully advocated to keep the position, citing the hiring challenges associated with the pandemic. Will post position the week after the fourth of July.

## **5. Old Business**

### **6. Local Prevention Council**

- a. 2021 LPC Grant – began brainstorming how those funds could be leveraged. Potential activities include enforcement, if supported by the Police Department. Will need to rethink how to deploy Community Conversations to align with social distancing guidelines.
- b. DFC Grant – grant narrative and budget done. Securing letters of support from local and state leaders. Will be notified if funded in November or December. Began exploring what activities can be implemented with current resources that align with DFC grant.

### **6. Next Agenda:**

### **7. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted by Jacquelyn Rose.