

# **Needham Youth & Family Services**

## **Youth Commission Meeting Notes**

5/9/18

Materials Distributed (both prior to or/and at the meeting): Agenda; Minutes of 4/11/2018; May Department Report

- Meeting Commence at 6:15, Center at the Heights, 300 Hillside Ave., Needham, MA 02494
- Accepted Minutes of 4/11/2018, unanimous approval

### **PROGRAMMATIC SERVICES:**

#### **VIP (Valuable Interaction among Peers) Program**

- One on one mentoring program by high school students using games and arts/crafts for socialization skills serving 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Maria and Katy working jointly on interviewing the high school applicants. (9 Seniors graduating so now in full recruitment mode)
- Programs runs yearly from the end of October - April at the Center at the Heights. Katy coordinates with help from Maria; Adina Alpert assisted January-April, former intern that we hired for this project
- Designed to help kids with the emotional and social aspects of elementary school.
- Several high school students are graduating who will be recognized at May 10 Award Ceremony.
- Program is 6 years old pairing 15-18 students. We emphasize one-on-one but occasionally the “littles” will ask to expand to other pairs for board games such as Clue and if they initiate the request the “bigs”/mentors will agree.
- Is Board Interested in expanding the program to include 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have asked but who have aged out of the program? Westwood has a larger program but it has been in existence longer. Discussion ensued including renaming so there is a more intuitive connection; No decision made on expanding right now.

Additional updates given:

- Our Summer Brochure is updated and being publicized, summer registration began on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Extreme Looks, Junior Police Academy and Project Van are all filling up.
- Publicity and registration have also begun for Peer Tutor and VIP.
- Senior Award Ceremony for all seniors in VIP and Peer Tutor will be recognized tomorrow evening, May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Third trimester of Picture Perfect will take place in a few weeks.
- We are mid-way through Teen Dating Violence Seminars at the high school. We have partnered with REACH beyond Domestic Violence to bring these workshops to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- We are planning an intergenerational picnic with Aging Services for August (see flyer)

### **CLINICAL SERVICES:**

#### **Counseling and the Law:**

An overview was given regarding laws as they relate to counseling.

- HIPAA and FERPA were explained.

- Youth & Family Services use 3 forms to obtain parental consent
  - -Consent for Counseling
  - -Release of Information for Schools
  - Authorization for Electronic Communication--
- A discussion of how these forms are used was had
- In answer to Board member questions--any self-harm questions we do a risk assessment then refer to Riverside as needed with a call to the parents at the same time.
- All Division Staff are covered by Katy's license; and Katy has full coverage from the Town of Needham.
- Tim McDonald, Director of Health & Human Services explained at the board's request how the coverage works: The Town is self-insured as a government entity. Town defends any practitioners in Court, there is a cap on damages and there a very high standard to prove any case brought by an individual/group.
- Explanation of CRA[CRA-Child Requiring Assistance Program)

#### **5 categories but last 2 are only in the schools**

- runaway child
- stubborn child \*\*\* category that Youth sees most frequently
- sexually exploited child
- school offender
- school truant

#### **Additional updates given:**

- Katy will be attended the Instructor training for Youth Mental Health First Aid next week in Hartford, CT
- Internship Collaborative with Dedham, Medfield, and Westwood has ended for the year
- Groups at Pollard are still in progress and are going well.
- We have received more counseling referrals...we currently have 6 children on our waitlist
- We continue to receive SAAP & BIP referrals and are making progress

### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:**

- Provided 2 additional community consultations this month
  - Grief workshop at the high school
    - Teen support and parent support
- Youth Resource Network held another successful roundtable this month. We are in the process of helping the family that was presented with resources
- Solution Committee meetings continue to meet. We currently sit on 3 committees
  - The Employee Mentoring is moving forward training mentors, next will be matching Mentees
  - Conducted a values exercise with the Finance Department
- Domestic Violence Action Committee meetings meet monthly
  - Will hold a table at the Street Fair Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- We have been asked to help train Park & Recreation summer staff
- We applied for and received a \$500 grant from BID-Needham, this will be used to bring The Mask You Live In to the Needham community.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Our full budget request has been approved by town meeting
- We are in the process of filling board vacancies as Jack and Vin will be leaving us
  - Annie Stein will begin her term on June 1, 2018
  - Shayan's term has been extended until June 1, 2019
  - It was discovered that David's term has expired and we have asked the school committee to extend his term until June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - This is Vin's last official board meeting and Chief Schlittler will be appointing the new SRO, Adriene Anderson to our board starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you Vin for 32 years of service!

Motion to Adjourned 6:55 pm, unanimous approval.

Members Present: Kevin Keane, Karen Mullen, Susan Patkin, Shayan Raza, Vin Springer, Julie Stevens

Members Absent: Jack Cruickshank, David Bookston

Division Staff Present: Katy Colthart, Carolyn Tracey, Maria Papantoniou, Ben Aronson, Caitlin White

Department Staff Present: Tim Muir McDonald

Notes by: Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary

Notes edited and submitted by: Katy Colthart