

Needham Youth & Family Services

Youth Commission Meeting Notes

6/13/18

Materials Distributed (both prior to or/and at the meeting): Agenda; Minutes of 5/9/2018; June Department Report; June Ray of Hope; New Summer Brochure

- Meeting Commenced at 5:30 pm, Highland Room, Needham Town Hall
- Motion to Approved May Minutes by David, Seconded by Shayan Unanimous approval of May Minutes.

PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES:

- Our Summer Programs are all sold out and begin next week. Junior Police Academy 25 with wait list of 4 so 29, Project VAN (40), Extreme Looks (12)
- We continue to receive applications for Peer Tutor and VIP. November-April break with Tuesday nights the commitment by the “bigs”
- Third trimester of Sexual Harassment workshops finished this week
- We are Planning to bring the Mask you Live In to the community in October 2018

YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM-NEW—HOLISTIC, COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

Presented by Kristin Lindley (Youth Diversion Program Coordinator) and Ryan O’Leary (Needham Police)

- Goal 1 is to prevent an arrest, charge and criminal record where the Court summons process is best served by community service
- Goal 2 to decrease recidivism at any Court prearrest hearing by tailoring the community service through the Youth Diversion Program.
- The process is an individualized legal contract which will be drawn up by Kristin with input from the arresting officer, the **parents**, and with mandated drug/alcohol testing. Importantly Town services that the individual juvenile may not have accessed before will be included in the contract such as a referral to Youth Services for mental health counseling. This includes coordination of the diverse services available within the Town.
- The contract language comes from the consulting attorney to Youth Diversion in Arlington which has the #1 Diversion program in the Commonwealth.
- All contracts emphasize personal responsibility.
- Community service will be part of the contract tailored to the young person’s interests; this means that the service is something the juvenile wants to do and can make contact with real people who share their interests. For example, if a juvenile enjoys hockey their community service will be with the youth hockey program.
- Tim McDonald mentioned that eventually the program will be proactive rather than reactive.
- A success story was noted; a juvenile who liked to code whose community service was with *Trip Advisor*; they now have a college scholarship paid for by the company!

- Kristin and Ryan also consulted with Youth Diversion programs in Brookline and Cambridge
- Ryan and Kristin will be meeting with school administrators over the summer; the plan is to include tutoring and other school services as part of the contracts in the fall 2018 and beyond.

CLINICAL UPDATES:

- Groups at Pollard have finished for the year
- We have received more counseling referrals...we currently have 6 children on our waitlist
- Are SAAP and BIP programs no longer have a waitlist as all referrals have been or will be seen by the end of the summer.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS:

- Provided a training for Park and Rec summer staff on Child Abuse and Bullying
- Attended the MA Municipal Association Human Services Committee's Annual Meeting and plan to become members in the fall
- Youth Resource Network wrapped up for this academic year
- CCIT continues to meet monthly
- Town Leadership Meetings will wrap up next week for the year. Next year the Leadership meetings will change to 4x per year and contain a training component
- 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
 - Developing an SOP for staff meetings
 - Guidelines of having Departmental meeting at least 3x per year and Division meetings at least 10x per year
- Domestic Violence Action Committee wrapped up for this academic year

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

We say goodbye to Vin and Jack and wish them well!
 Caitlin White has agreed to stay on part-time through the summer.
 Congratulations to Carolyn on her 1 year work anniversary.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- All night party for 2018 graduates at Pollard was not well attended—some discussion of a new venue, other ideas for next year.
- Suggested Meeting Dates/Times for 2018-2019 presented. Julie made a motion to approve, Karen seconded. Unanimous approval of second Wednesdays 5:30-7 pm.
- At 6:45 Division Staff left for an update on the Director Search.
- Tim McDonald updated the Board on the Director Search and the schedule/process for the end of June second round of interviews.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:15 pm by Julie, Seconded by David; Unanimous Approval

Members Present: Kevin Keane, Shayan Raza, Vin Springer, Julie Stevens, Karen Mullen, David Brookston, Adrienne Anderson (new School Police Resource Officer), Annie Stein (new Junior replacing Jack Cruickshank on the Board)

Members Absent: Jack Cruickshank, Susan Patkin

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

Guests: Ryan O’Leary, Police

Kristin Lindley (Youth Diversion Coordinator)

Timothy Muir McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services

Notes by Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary