

Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes
5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2nd Floor
County Office Building, Wampsville
May 2, 2017

Members:

Sharon Taylor, Ron Cary, Sydney Foster, John Olmsted

Staff:

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

1. Approve Minutes from March 9, 2017 meeting:

Motion made by Sydney to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting as presented; seconded by Ron; unanimously approved.

2. Director's Report:

Joanne reported that all agencies accepted the amount of funding allocated by the Board and that budget modifications and narrative revisions were submitted where requested.

The skate park rewrote their proposal and budget. They selected kids whom they wanted to focus program efforts on. The funds cover three youth; two who are full time and one 15 year old they will bring in half way through the summer to groom for employment next year. They have created nice evaluation tools. They are being very intentional and will only charge off billing for three youth, but using the evaluation tools for all.

Skanda accepted the funds and redid portions of the proposal. Ellen took in many suggestions the Board gave her. They will run a four week program 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for 10 young people starting July 10th and ending August 4th. They agreed the program as initially presented was too many hours. They reported that they are starting to work with school districts. All contracts for everyone else are done. The Skanda contract will go before the Board of Supervisors for approval in June.

Catholic Charities RHYA program hit a couple milestones. They submitted paperwork and will seek approval from the state for their second host home. Joanne met with the Catholic Charities Division Director last week. She stated she is good with two homes and it does not make sense with the lack of volume to recruit any more at this time. Catholic Charities was able to recruit the second house through the efforts of a part time staff person funded by the Sexually Exploited Youth money. The staff person gave a presentation at the Morrisville Lions Club. Joanne also shared that the program housed a young lady in the Oneida host home in March who was a sexually exploited youth. Catholic Charities has been involved with the CAC, DSS and other agencies and is taking the lead on the case management piece with the young lady. Joanne was told they were flawless in their delivery and believes the case gave them visibility. Hopefully agencies will now start looking at them as a resource.

Ron stated that the Raise the Age legislation will have a push down effect on the program and asked if the RHYA program will be prepared. Joanne clarified the legislation with the Board and stated that it is not the intent of the host homes to provide services other than respite or a place for someone who is housing vulnerable. Joanne stated that coincidentally there have been changes to the RHYA regulations. Shelters and interim family homes will move from a maximum 30 day stay to 60 days without having to seek an extension from the RHYA Coordinator. Joanne noted that Oneida County just opened a youth shelter in Rome. They must take on cases from contiguous counties if space is available.

Joanne shared that because the New York State budget went late a lot happened in the last weekend. On Friday all the legislative adds were in the budget. Now only half of the legislative add we received last year is in the budget. The change does not impact what the Board gave to agencies. The legislative adds are used for administrative costs. The overall Youth Bureau budget will be a little less than originally planned.

As of Monday the Youth Bureau has added a third school for the Leadership Program. Joanne met earlier in the year with the Stockbridge superintendent and spoke to her about the program. This culminated in a meeting with the superintendent, guidance counselor and principal. The superintendent would like the program to be mandatory for the entire ninth grade in the 2017-2018 school year. This will be a great way to see if we can really impact a school's culture working with the full freshman class of 24 students. The program will run in two sessions two days per week.

3. Youth Development Specialist's Report:

Tina shared she presented on the Exploring County Government program to eight government classes at Chittenango High School. Of those who heard the presentation there were 33 students who were interested. The names were shared with the guidance office. Tina was able to use the opportunity to engage with the government teachers and meet the head of the department who by the end of the day was offering bus transportation if enough students were interested in participating.

The Year 2 Leadership students helped the Great Swamp Conservancy with their Seeds of Hope project. The group filled and distributed 12 shoe boxes full of donated seeds to 12 separate locations in Cazenovia, Oneida, Bridgeport and Chittenango. The Year 2 reading program at the Chittenango Child Care Center has gone well. Students read to preschool and toddler groups in April and May. The children look forward to the visits and the staff also enjoys the additional support on reading days. Two visits were made to the Haven at Skanda to maintain the living areas of goats and mini donkeys.

Both Year 1 Leadership programs are in the process of preparing workshops for younger students. Cazenovia will facilitate four 5th grade teambuilding workshops May 9th and 10th. Chittenango will facilitate two 3rd grade teambuilding and two 4th grade middle school preparation on May 25th. A Career Exploration trip will take place on May 4th. Twelve Year 1 students from both districts will visit the county complex to tour five different departments and learn about career fields. Two Year 2 students, our youth Board members, will complete a job shadow, one with Emergency Management and one with the Historian. The summer Leadership program will begin July 11th with biweekly service through August. Service activities will include the Make a Wish Wild event, continuation of the reading program, and a new activity with the library as well as other work with organizations. Tina was invited to a meeting of librarians from the Chittenango school district and public libraries. The librarians want to offer a summer activity called Build a Better You. The librarians invited members of the Leadership program to attend the next meeting in order to gain youth input into planning.

4. Miscellaneous:

No items.

5. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be June 6th. There will not be a July meeting. Joanne encouraged the Board to get involved in monitoring visits that will occur over the summer. The August meeting will be the annual dinner meeting with guests presenting on funded programs.

Sydney made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by John. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis