

AGENDA

MADISON COUNTY YOUTH BOARD

October 1, 2013

**5:30 PM, Supervisors Conference Room
2nd Floor
County Office Building, Wampsville**

- 1. Approve Minutes from the June 4 and August 6, 2013 meetings**
- 2. Program Updates:**
 - Safe Place for Youth**
 - Local Government Interns (LGI)**
- 3. 2014 Funding Updates**
- 4. Youth Development Specialist Report**
- 5. Miscellaneous**
- 6. Next Meeting – November 5th ?**

Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes
5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2nd Floor
County Office Building, Wampsville
June 4, 2013

Members:

Ron Cary, Dawn Post, Jill Moore, Kathy Caezza

Staff:

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

1. Motion to approve Minutes:

A motion was made to approve Minutes from the April 2, 2013 Youth Board Meeting by Ron. Seconded by Jill, all approved.

2. Program Updates:

Safe Place for Youth: Liberty Resources has not had an interim family home in a year and has shown no effort to recruit one. This is problematic in that the program is required to have one and Joanne has talked at length before and during the allocation process about this issue.

The Youth Bureau cannot give money to anyone else to run this program, as at this point in time Liberty Resources is the only certified agency in this County authorized by OCFS to operate an Interim Family Home program, and no other organization can take it on without going through a long certification process. The program is needed as it is the only program in the county designed to provide a short-term housing option as well as case management to housing vulnerable youth. It is required to have at least one interim family home.

The Legislative Committee of the Board of Supervisors that oversees the Youth Bureau's activities inquired about how the Safe Place program was doing when they were presented with the resolution to approve this year's contract with Liberty Resources to operate the program. Joanne shared that there is a problem with the lack of interim family homes and that youth are being sent out of County for housing, often to Booth House in Syracuse.

Youth from Madison County do not typically do well there as it is in downtown Syracuse and they are not comfortable there. The Committee is unhappy with the fact that no interim family homes exist and that there are no assurances that Liberty is doing anything about it. The Committee is very uncomfortable with sending kids out of county for services.

Providing in-county short-term housing options is one of the main reasons the program exists. The Committee asked to meet with a representative from Liberty Resources at their June meeting. Joanne has never had a request to bring an agency in front of the Legislative Committee before. Liberty Resources receives a large amount of money through various contracts with DSS and Mental Health. Other departments do not require the level of fiscal reporting and program monitoring and evaluation that the Youth Bureau does. Kathy asked what the money is funding if it is not funding the interim family homes. Joanne explained that the money currently covers a full time staff person who provides case management to

connect youth to services to either facilitate them being reunited with their families wherever appropriate, or to find other suitable housing options when not appropriate. Case management is offered to about 60 kids over a course of a year. The staff person also oversees community Safe Place sites. Sites that are designated as a Safe Place must undergo annual training to maintain their status through the national Safe Place program. The staff person also must recruit interim family homes. Joanne will report back to the Youth Board regarding what occurred at the June Committee meeting. She also plans to talk with the new director of Catholic Charities of Madison/Oneida Counties to determine if Catholic Charities has any interest in seeking certification to operate the interim family Home program in the future if things can't be worked out with Liberty Resources. Catholic Charities ran an Interim Family program in Madison county from 1998 – 2003 so the OCFS certification process should be much quicker with them than any other local organization.

2014 Funding: Cathy asked if we will be inviting proposals for next year. Joanne stated that she will be issuing a competitive RFP for 2014 funding once she has more information regarding the new rules and regulations that will be developed for the new Youth Development Program funding stream that will go into effect in 2014. There could be more money available to allocate to organizations to operate youth development programs as we would no longer have to set aside money for municipal recreation programs. All municipalities who want to get funding will need to submit a program proposal through the competitive RFP process. Most municipalities do not have the capacity to submit a proposal of this sort. Joanne is concerned for next year as the distribution formula will be different and at this time she does not know if the change will help or hurt us. The current formula is based on the census per capita youth population, so the more kids we have the more money we would receive. However, there is wording that references the per capita figure plus other factors, which could include youth in poverty, which would hurt our county as we have a low percentage of youth in poverty.

Local Government Interns (LGI): Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) traditionally ran the LGI program on the county campus. The program allows students to learn about departments, the function of the Board of Supervisors, and students hold their own mock board meeting in addition to other activities. Due to staffing issues at CCE, the Youth Bureau officially became partners with CCE this year in offering LGI and took on additional responsibility with the program and offered technical support through the planning process. The program ran in the Fall with the understanding that it would not run in the Spring. The biggest contributor to the program is Cazenovia which is the only school that runs a bus. CCE offers transportation to other schools that cannot fund a bus. There have been several issues that have arisen this past spring that have threatened the continuation of the program this Fall. Most have been dealt with now, but we are still working out a plan to deal with the decision by the Board of Supervisors to change their monthly meeting time from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. which would not allow LGI to have contact with the Board of Supervisors. Ron suggested that students attend committee meetings as much of the work of the Board is done in committees. Joanne will share this suggestion with CCE and the County Administrator.

Youth Tent: The Youth Bureau became involved with the Madison County Fair in 2009 through encouragement from the Historian at the time. The Youth Bureau began running the events tent and has continued to do so each year of the Fair. The Youth Bureau takes over the tent and brings in agencies to showcase what they do and to run activities. Activities will run 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with 13 organizations involved this year. Each year the tent has gained or lost groups, which keeps the activities fresh each time. The tent is a good draw for youth and families in the morning as the midway does not open until 1:00 p.m. All organizations provide something interactive for kids and also promote their organizations. Included in the Youth Tent this year are: libraries, Chenango Canal Association Towpath Trail, Project Café, the Colgate Raider, Cooperative Extension, Jo Perkins, Heritage Farms, Literacy Coalition and Madison County Reads Ahead, Safe Place, Great Swamp Conservancy, Solid Waste, Dairy Princess, Youth Bureau mini golf and balloons. Promotion will begin shortly once all groups have confirmed their activities. We have also been blessed this year with the donation of 100 children's board games that we will be distributing in the youth tent.

3. Youth Development Specialist Report:

A shadow experience with Environmental Health was offered to a Chittenango student in April. The student made the following comment on his evaluation: "This experience was a brilliant way of introducing students to what work in the field is like and what the requirements are."

The Chittenango Leadership Group was offered a tour of four county departments; Solid Waste and Sanitation, Employment and Training, the Sheriff's Office and the Courts. The group also facilitated a workshop at Bridgeport Elementary for 4th and 5th graders entitled, "How to be the help or find the help in a bullying situation." The students did an excellent job acting out two skits on how to deal with bullying and shared their personal stories of how they dealt with it in their lives. Exit interviews were done with Group 1 Leadership members as this is the end of their involvement. Group 2 Leadership members were given post tests. Overall the students have done well in the Leadership Program and plans have been made to run Group 3 in the Fall with a new group starting in Cazenovia. Students involved in the Summer Youth Employment Program will be offered the First Impressions Workshop. The workshop was initially created and facilitated by youth for the Youth Leadership Conference in Albany in 2009. The workshop includes appropriate dress and behavior for the work setting, how to offer a proper handshake, presentation skills and eye contact. The Program Quality Assessment Tool (PQA) will be administered to Church on the Rock and Earlville Opera House over the summer. Dennis Hoover who oversees the after school program at the church is very enthusiastic about going through the process and is very open to using the tool as a way to improve the program. He will serve as the second observer.

4. Miscellaneous:

Joanne reported that she and Tina will soon be meeting with the Operations Coordinator/ Humane Educator at Wanderer's Rest, DeeAnn Schaefer, regarding children's programs.

DeeAnn thought we would be a good match with youth programs. Dawn commented that DeeAnn is very good at what she does.

5. **Next Meeting:** The Youth board does not meeting in July, so the next scheduled meeting is August 6, 2013. Joanne asked members if they would like to do a combined Youth Board and Collaboration for Community Change Meeting. The format would be as in years past in which we do an overview of Youth Bureau activities and open the meeting to area youth groups within Madison County to share their activities. Beyond the Youth Bureau we will invite other groups such as the Summer Youth Employment Program through BOCES, Reality Check and any contract agencies plus anyone else doing youth services. This has also been an excellent networking opportunity for everyone. All members agreed to this idea. The tentative location is Jim Marshall Farms Foundation. Start time will be 5:30 p.m. with a light dinner followed by presentations and ending around 7:30 p.m.

Jill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ron seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis

Youth Bureau Youth Board and Collaboration for Community Change Meeting
Jim Marshall Farms Foundation, Chittenango
August 6, 2013

Bobbi Jo Hannan, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Lisa Reeves, Dawn Post, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Mindy Reeves, Dawn Post, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Donna Cashman, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Jill Moore, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Dawn Post, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Diane Van Slyke, President, Chenango Canal Association Towpath Trail
Dennis Hoover, Supervisor, Mentoring Program, Community Action Partnership, and Youth
Pastor/Worship Pastor, Church on the Rock
Craig Potlack, Intern, Youth Center, Church on the Rock
Ashley Partridge, Mentoring Match Coordinator, Mentoring Program, Community Action
Partnership
Jeff Richmond, Summer Youth Employment Work Project Lead Instructor, Madison-Oneida
BOCES
Patricia Richmond, wife of Jeff
Kalila Lehner, Chittenango Leadership Group Member
Conor Laughlin, Chittenango Leadership Group Member
CiCi, Sean, Sydney Laughlin, family of Conor
Justin Lynch, Regional Volunteer Coordinator, United Way of Central New York
Hannah Light-Olson, Project Café Student Member
Maureen Milmae, Project Café Student Member
Kurt Wheeler, Project Café Coordinator, Cazenovia High School Teacher, Cazenovia Mayor
Brian Walker, Senior Workforce Development Counselor, Employment and Training
Joseph Wicks, BRiDGES to Prevent Tobacco Coordinator, BRiDGES
Carol Watros, Community Services Coordinator, Madison-Oneida BOCES
Joanne Eddy, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau
Tina Louis, Youth Development Specialist, Madison County Youth Bureau

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Welcome, Introductions, Youth Bureau Report

Joanne Eddy welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked Reality Check for their generosity in covering the cost of dinner for the meeting. She reviewed the Program Quality Assessment process being used with Youth Bureau funded programs as well as the Results Scorecard process. The Youth Bureau was involved in offering input to both systems and is using both to assess how programs are addressing youth development principles and practices. There has been a higher degree of focus on program quality and she has worked to encourage funded programs to meet expectations of the evaluation processes. As funding streams change next year it will be important for everyone to illustrate how they do what they do and address youth development features. The Youth Bureau will seek out opportunities to become involved with new ventures and to continue to serve the youth of Madison County. Joanne commented on the success of the Youth Tent at the Madison County Fair and the great support of organizations who were

involved.

Everyone introduced themselves.

Tina reviewed the trainings and presentations that have been offered to various groups since July of 2012. The First Impressions workshop has been very popular. Parent audiences are much more difficult to reach. Tina offered the audience an invitation to do workshops for parent groups.

The Brookfield group, BEST, Brookfield Events Supported by Teens, has ended after a number of years. The students worked with the Pre-K class on the importance of recycling and did a playground cleanup. The Youth Bureau continues to work with the Chittenango Leadership Group starting a second group this past school year. The group learned about a variety of topics and ended the school year with a bullying workshop at Bridgeport Elementary School in May. Summer programming has involved doing volunteering at Chittenango Library, helping an elderly woman who was a victim of the flood with a basement cleanup in Oneida, and helping at Wanderer's Rest and the Chittenango Canal Boat Museum in the next two weeks.

Tina reviewed the history of job shadowing and internship opportunities coordinated by the Youth Bureau. Initial investigation started in 2008 with a Policy and Procedure for Madison County passed in March 2011 for unpaid job shadow and internship for high school and college students. From January 2008 to July 2013, the Youth Bureau has coordinated individual and group internship and job shadowing experiences to 147 different students from nine Madison County school districts with the cooperation of 15 Madison County departments with a total of about 69 different career tracks.

The Youth Bureau has partnered with the United Way of Central New York Regional Volunteer Coordinator, Justin Lynch, since September 2012 to set up a resource for youth volunteerism. The site, www.volunteercny.org, has as youth component, the Youth Volunteer Connection that lists volunteer opportunities for Madison County youth. Justin commented that efforts to improve tracking of volunteer hours in the main focus of the Regional Volunteer Centers. New York State is listed 51st in number of volunteer hours not due to the fact that New Yorkers do not volunteer, but that tracking of hours is not done in a comprehensive way. The website is a tool to capture volunteer hours. Justin encouraged organizations to use the site to post volunteer opportunities and commented that youth can track their hours with a reporting mechanism included on the site. Justin has offered help sessions to organizations to input volunteer opportunities in Madison County. Tina encouraged those not on the site yet to create an account and offered additional help sessions to the audience.

Program and Group Sharing

Reality Check was not able to send a representative, but Tina reviewed slides that covered recent activities led by youth leaders. Teens have been visiting stores and flagging YouTube videos. Joe Wicks clarified that the flagging efforts help to classify videos. If YouTube videos contain inappropriate content, such as tobacco advertising to younger audiences, then the videos should be age restricted. They are sharing their findings with community leaders, the Attorney General's Office, University Researchers, and the FDA. Teens have been working very hard to

reduce Tobacco Marketing at Store and online. Leaders visited New York City in May and attended a tobacco industry shareholders meeting, asking direct questions to the CEO of Philip Morris International about the company's marketing practices. Youth recently attended the Youth Leadership Institute Legacy for Health in Washington, DC. Two Madison County Youth Leaders were chosen to attend this dynamic five day training. Only six other states were selected, after a very competitive process. Also, Reality Check was awarded a \$2,500 grant from Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids to create short videos to raise awareness of how the tobacco industry markets their products.

Jeff Richmond, Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Work Project Lead Instructor, shared a PowerPoint and presented on the projects completed by the Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Program. Jeff commented on the hard work and dedication of the youth on the work crew and found it a very rewarding experience. Brian Walker from Employment and Training gave an overview of the Summer Youth Employment program including eligibility, work sites, and totals for the summer.

Open Sharing from the Audience

The Chittenango Leadership members, Conor Lauglin commented that he learned how better to deal with people through his involvement. Kalila Lehner said that she learned how to work as a team and how to present. Conor's parents commented that he has developed confidence as a result of the group and has taken on more leadership opportunities, namely leadership roles over the summer with Boy Scout Camp.

Ashley Partridge and Dennis Hoover, Mentoring Match Coordinators, spoke about Community Action's Mentoring Program. The program has two mentoring programs, a one on one mentoring and an intensive mentoring in which a mentor has more than one youth. The program has a waiting list of over 80 youth and is looking for additional mentors. Dennis also spoke about the efforts of the Church on the Rock and its after school program/drop in center. The church's food pantry and clothing closet were very busy during the Oneida flooding as were the many church volunteers who offered support to families in crisis, both in helping to clean up and offering needed supplies. Dennis spoke about the success of this summer's efforts to run an intern program with former members of the youth center. The interns have taken a leadership role in completing tasks within the church. Craig Potlack, Church on the Rock Intern, commented on the projects the interns were involved with over the summer and his enjoyment in being a part of the church's efforts. Carol Watros commented that she a youth she works with who has a difficult home life commented that the after school program is "...the only place he feels safe."

Mindy Reeves announced that she has successfully completed her GED. Lisa, her Mother, is very proud and commented on how hard high school was for Mindy due to bullying. She commended the Chittenango Leadership Group for their efforts. Joe Wicks also commented on the effect that bullying has into adulthood and that he thanked the Leadership students for their efforts to combat bullying. Bobbi Jo Hannan commented that she also was affected by bullying and still is in college. She thanked the youth for their efforts.

Justin Lynch offered assistance in helping organizations connect with corporate volunteering as a

number of companies encourage their employees to get involved in their communities.

Diane Van Slyke commented on the variety of jobs and quality of work the Summer Youth Employment crew in Bouckville completed at the Chenango Canal Association Towpath Trail. She was impressed with the crew's hard work. She also thanked Tina for helping to connect with Madison Central School to offer field trip activities to 4th graders. Diane said there were a number of volunteers who helped to make the activity a success.

Project Café Members Hannah Light-Olson and Maureen Milmae shared about their upcoming work with the Crop Walk and September 11th Remembrance events. Kurt Wheeler commented that Project Café has taken on leadership for community events from what were adult led groups and have been successful in organizing the events for the community. Members of Project Café have become respected leaders in Cazenovia.

Carol Watros shared information about the New High School Equivalency Test entitled Test Assessing Secondary Completion or TASC. Carol commented that the test is much more difficult than the GED. She distributed information to everyone on the test as well as supports for people who would like to prepare take to take the TASC, both youth and adults. Dawn Post commented that she was involved in the piloting of the new test locally and agreed that the content is much more difficult.

Joanne thanked everyone for coming and encouraged people to connect and network.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Louis