

Madison County Youth Board and Collaboration for Community Change
August 7, 2012
Jim Marshall Farms, Chittenango

Present:

Bud Ballinger, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member, Private Therapist
Chris Crandall, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member, Retired Senior Volunteer Program Member
Donna Cashman, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
James Yonai, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member, Director, Madison County Mental Health
Jill Moore, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member, Deputy Director, Madison County Probation
Dennis Hoover, Mentoring Match Coordinator, Mentoring Program, Community Action Partnership
Ashley Partridge, Mentoring Match Coordinator, Mentoring Program, Community Action Partnership
Katey Cordary, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member, Case Manager, Madison County Employment and Training
Jeff Richmond, Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Work Project Lead Instructor
Lucy Shephard, Secretary, Project Café, Cazenovia
Sam Webster, Treasurer, Project Café, Cazenovia
Sarah Howell, Coordinator, Madison County's Promise, BRiDGES
Denise Dyer, Regional Youth Development Coordinator, New York State Office of Children and Family Services
Bobbi Jo Hannan, 2012 Graduate, Canastota High School
Elizabeth Garofalo, Career Development and Occupational Studies Teacher, Canastota High School
Dawn Post, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Heather Bernet, Program Coordinator, Reality Check
Elisha Faisst, Youth Leader, Reality Check
Megan Rogers, Youth Leader, Reality Check
Tiffani Decker, Youth Leader, Reality Check
Jordyn Camp, Youth Leader, Reality Check
Ron Cary, Youth Bureau Youth Board Member
Jesse Ackerman, Chittenango Leadership Group Member
Jenna Dombroski, Chittenango Leadership Group Member
Kim Miner, Jenna's Mother
Rachel Rasmussen, Chittenango Leadership Group Member
Jennifer Rasmussen, Rachel's Mother
Danielle Prawl, guest of Chittenango Leadership Group Members
Joanne Eddy, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau
Tina Louis, Youth Development Specialist, Madison County Youth Bureau

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Joanne Eddy welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered an overview of the Youth Bureau's challenges and successes over the last year.

Everyone introduced themselves.

Youth Bureau Report

Tina reviewed the trainings and presentations that have been offered to various groups since July of 2011. Trainings to small and large groups included creating good first impressions, presentation skills, media literacy, social networking, and online safety. Audiences ranged from junior high teens to adults.

Continued initiatives include working with Brookfield youth. During the 2011 to 2012 school year, the group facilitated Government Group sessions for younger students. The Youth Bureau also is continuing to work with the Chittenango Leadership Group. The group began as a pilot in Spring 2011 and continued in the Fall to include topics such as teambuilding, goal setting, personality differences and career exploration. The group was able to participate in a horse workshop at Jim Marshall Farms in December 2011, after which, the group decided to take what they learned in centering exercises to do a workshop at Bridgeport Elementary School in May 2012. Summer programming has involved staying in touch with Brookfield students as well as extending the Chittenango group into summer and doing volunteering at Wanderer's Rest. As a result of volunteering a cat will be adopted by a group member.

Tina reviewed the history of job shadowing and internship opportunities coordinated by the Youth Bureau. Initial investigation started in 2008 upon the request of Elizabeth Garofalo from Canastota High School to provide career exploration opportunities to a student. The 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 2012, the Youth Bureau has coordinated individual and group internship and job shadowing experiences to 123 different students from nine Madison County school districts with the cooperation of 13 Madison County departments with a total of about 55 different career tracks.

Tina shared that she is working with middle school boys in Chittenango on a program similar to the Leadership Group at the high school. Sessions included goal setting and future planning, personality styles, communication skills, teambuilding, and presentation skills. Each group member is matched with a mentor, a teacher or school staff, who monitors progress of the student and offers academic and social supports.

Joanne shared information about the Program Quality Assessment pilot that both Community Action's Mentoring Program and Project Café recently went through to evaluate various areas of program quality. The Youth Bureau is also participating in the Results Scorecard process to measure outcomes of funded programs. The process is meant to illustrate the impact of Youth Bureau funding with respect to youth involved in programs.

Joanne also shared that the United Way has a website that we are interested in using to replace the one the Youth Bureau tried to initiate, but was unsuccessful due to the resignation of the IT person who had created the site. The site, www.volunteercny.org, is fully operational and has everything the Youth Bureau's site had and more. Work will be done in the coming months to encourage Madison County organizations to enter their information on the site and then to publicize the site to youth who can connect to volunteer opportunities in a quick and easy way as well as have a method for tracking specifics of volunteer time.

Program and Group Sharing

Bobbi Jo Hannan, a recent Canastota High School graduate, spoke about her involvement with the Local Government Intern program. Through her participation she initiated an anti bullying program in her school that included an assembly, school wide march, and a float in the Boxing Hall of Fame parade. The project was chosen to go on to represent New York State at the National Bullying Summit in Washington DC. Bobbi Jo also commented on her experience with job shadowing and how it helped her to affirm her interest in the social services field.

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. Completed projects included a lean to, wood stairs, and trail clearing. Jeff commented on the hard work and dedication of the youth on the work crew and found it a very rewarding experience.

Lucy Shepard, Project Café Secretary, presented on the variety of community service projects undertaken by members of Project Café. The group does a community Christmas collection, participates in community events, and coordinates a mentoring program among many others.

Dennis Hoover, Mentoring Match Coordinator, 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 about 50 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 runs a food program a few times a week for families to come for dinner. The program is very popular. The church also recently opened a food pantry.

Reality Check Youth Leaders reviewed the purpose of the group and the recent actions they have taken. Reality Check is a youth led movement aiming to reduce youth exposure to tobacco marketing. Reality Check Youth Leader Megan Rogers reviewed a few key actions, namely, one video relayed the process of measuring tobacco product signs that exceeded regulations of the Master Settlement Agreement of 14 square feet. The group contacted the Attorney General and the signs were taken down statewide. Megan also spoke about the recent trip to Washington D.C. in which the group convinced Congressman Hanna to remove his sponsorship of a bill that would exempt premium cigars from FDA Regulation.

Sarah Howell, Coordinator of Madison County's Promise at BRiDGES announced that MCP is offering a community forum on bath salts on Tuesday, August 21st at the Oneida High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. The forum will allow significant time for attendees to ask questions. MCP also will be offering mini grants in the fall for drug and alcohol education and prevention activities. More information will be available shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Louis