

**Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes**  
**6PM, Supervisors Conference Room**  
**County Office Building, Wampsville**  
**February 7, 2012**

**Members:** Jill Moore, Ron Cary, Dawn Post, Chris Crandall, Dr. Bud Ballinger, Dr. James Yonai, Donna Cashman

**Staff:** Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

*Dawn called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm*

1.) **Motion to approve minutes** from the January 3, 2011 Youth Board Meeting made by Bud and seconded by Jim, all approved.

2.) **2012 Funding Update** – Joanne shared that OCFS has not released the allocations and has no intention of releasing them any time soon. Joanne was told that numbers would not be available until the NYS budget passes. This makes it very difficult for contract agencies who find it hard to understand why the money is not available; however, contracts cannot be written until allocations are in hand. Also, last year, Youth Bureaus were informed that the 50 percent cut that crossed calendar and fiscal years would be put out as 25 percent in 2011 and 25 percent in 2012. The reality is that the 25 percent cut was instituted last year, but Youth Bureaus were told a cut of 33 percent was needed this year. All agencies planned for the 25 percent reduction. We cannot make a commitment to agencies without knowing for sure what we have for allocations. The new census figures will also have an impact on the allocations. Some creative financing will need to happen. With respect to RHY, Joanne shared that Liberty Resources submitted a budget that was not realistic. Joanne should know by the end of the week if Safe Place will be shut down. Donna asked what would happen to the RHY money if Liberty shuts down, to which Joanne responded that we will not get RHY money back. This equates to a \$32,000 loss of OCFS funds plus the county match of \$15,000. Liberty will either run it until the money runs out or choose to close the program now. They are still trying to decide. Jim asked if another program could take over the interim host home program, to which Joanne said no due to the certification process necessary to do housing. Jim asked if another county could be tied into, however Joanne stated that the Oneida County program is struggling and that Onondaga County does not have the same system, only the Salvation Army shelter. Joanne noted that youth are not comfortable going out of county for services.

3.) **Pilot Projects for 2012** – Two OCFS pilot programs are being offered to address program accountability and quality, the Results Leadership Group Scorecard and the NYS OCFS Program Quality Assessment. The processes will allow outcomes to be better documented. The results will be of better value to the state and to agencies when seeking funding.

The **Results Scorecard** is a contract between OCFS and the Youth Bureau Association. It is a web based software service used to track measurable outcomes. Both Joanne and Tina attended a training last fall. The system allows sorting according to after school, mentoring, and other program types. The Scorecard is visual in that it shows what outcomes programs are having above and beyond the number served, which is a common measure provided in the current reporting process. For example, academic achievement through a tutoring program might result in academic gains by youth which can now be reported. Joanne and Tina met with Project Café to determine their perspective on the project. Joanne shared with them that they can get information from youth who attend the program to determine if they are involving youth in civic engagement. With baseline data they could determine if, as they are offering more opportunities over the course of the year to engage a larger audience, they are making headway with more youth or if their active youth are only board members. Project Café responded cautiously to doing the program. Community Action will be met with on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Mentoring Program's format is easier

with respect to tracking outcomes, for example, matches, lasting matches, youth not entering the juvenile justice system, cost savings of child welfare and juvenile justice. From 2008 to 2010 of 52 kids involved in the Mentoring Program who were run through the DSS system, only 8 were involved during or after their mentoring experience. Ron asked who would enter the Scorecard data. Joanne said that at this time, as a pilot, each county was only given one license, so the agencies will feed information to her for their individual Scorecards and she will enter it into the system. If the system proves to be valuable Joanne will buy additional licenses. Erie County worked the cost of each license into contracts so that agencies could enter their own data. The nice thing about the Scorecard is that it is not a generic quarterly report so it would be more specific to outcomes for each agency. For more information about the Results Scorecard go to the Results Leadership Group website, <http://www.resultsleadership.org/scorecard> . We are one of 10 pilots throughout New York State. Prior to us, Erie and Orange County were involved in a pilot last year.

The second parallel pilot is the **Program Quality Assessment (PQA)** which tracks the eight features of positive youth development. The system gives the total picture – data plus youth development. An observer scores the program a 1, 3, or 5 for each item for each scale, and then an average is taken for each scale and then an overall average is calculated for all scales. A 4 or more on each scale is a good score. Less than a 4 has potential for corrective action. The system is a way to increase the eight features and is not a punitive measure. Programs will have to use it next year with OCFS. The PQA will be difficult to use in a counseling program due to confidentiality.

The PQA will be built into the Scorecard. The systems will allow the Youth Bureau to learn and work with agencies and look at programs in a way we have not looked at them before. Those involved as pilots have been told they are at the top of the list for funding. Project Café, the Mentoring Program, and Safe Place (if it is still going) will be monitored. Bud asked why Project Café seemed disinterested. Joanne responded saying that they would like to continue what they are doing now, but they really do not have a choice as Youth Bureaus are being asked to evaluate on a statewide level. Project Café had a mixed reaction as they have never evaluated the program in this way. They will evaluate an educational outcome and at least one other. The Mentoring Program is excited to use it as it is a better way to track and visualize the program's outcomes. RHY has not responded.

Joanne has been looking at how the systems fit with some of the other programs. It will be hard to make the Scorecard fit for Earlville Opera House as it is harder to nail down outcomes so it will be a challenge. Jim suggested a pre, intermediate, and post test to determine the awareness of art related areas. Donna asked if OCFS recognizes Healthy People 2010 with youth development and health issues. Joanne said that OCFS partners at the state level with DOH, but healthy outcomes are not built into any of the monitoring tools. The focus is more youth development than health. Joanne concluded by saying that both tools are valuable and to stay tuned for more information.

**4.) Youth Development Specialist Report** – Tina shared that BEST has begun to run Government Group. There are three interested youth, however it is hoped that additional youth will join.

Ten Chittenango youth are actively involved in their weekly leadership group. The students are beginning a volunteer project with the special education class as a proving ground for a more intense time investment, a peer mediation program. Students will be visiting within the next week for a minimum of one class period to offer assistance within the classroom. The students underwent a two week sensitivity class to help them understand various disabilities and to participate in activities that helped them empathize with special education students. A Chittenango middle school counselor heard about the sessions with the high school group and has inquired into whether Tina can start a group for middle school boys. This will be investigated.

Tina is involved with the Canastota Parent Advisory Committee which is looking into issues of behavior, attitude, character education and parent support. The group is a combination of parents and administration and meets monthly to brainstorm ways to improve the four key areas.

Following the panel presentation in November, Tina offered two parent workshops. Youth workers attended the workshops who were also parents, but attendance was low. In seeing that these opportunities are not being utilized, Joanne and Tina felt that the workshops were valuable, but that a community connection was needed. Tina met with the Canastota Youth Librarian, who is interested in workshops for Librateens, a youth group currently made up of about 15 male students within walking distance of the library. Tina will offer a two part workshop, "First Impressions, Lasting Impact" to the group including topics of dress, handshakes, and public speaking.

Tina also is involved on the Steering Committee for the Volunteer Services Project led by RSVP. The survey will be sent to Madison County non profits to determine their present and future needs and concerns with respect to volunteers. The survey will be sent out February 14<sup>th</sup>. Results will be reviewed in March to compile recommendations to address volunteer needs.

5.) **Miscellaneous** – Ron suggested that the Youth Board acknowledge Eric Howard for his many years of service in providing the DARE program. The rest of the Board agreed. Jill will get a plaque and Tina will create a certificate of appreciation.

6.) **Next meeting** – The next Youth Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron and seconded by Dawn. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.