

Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes
5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2nd Floor
County Office Building, Wampsville
May 1, 2012

Members: Ron Cary, Jill Moore, Chris Crandall, Dawn Post, Donna Cashman, and Katey Cordary

Staff: Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

Guests: Eric Howard, Ann Howard

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm

Addition to Minutes:

The March 9th e-mail vote, regarding the Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) allocation (\$25,000 RHYA funds, \$15,000 County match for a total contract amount of \$40,000) required at least 7 votes to move forward with preparing a resolution for the Board of Supervisors to act upon. Joanne was happy to announce that she received 8 votes regarding this and the resolution authorizing the Chairman to enter into an agreement with Liberty Resources Family Services, Inc. to operate the Safe Place for Youth RHYA program went to the Board of Supervisors, where it has been approved and an agreement has been prepared.

1.) Motion to approve minutes from the March 6, 2012 Youth Board Meeting made by Ron and seconded by Donna, all approved.

2.) Recognition – Eric Howard, DARE Officer

Joanne and Youth Board expressed appreciation or all that Eric has done. Ron stated that Eric was the perfect choice and is popular with all the youth. Joanne stated that DARE has been a great program and we have been honored to help support it.

3.) Updates:

- **2012 Funding** – The original allocations were off because the 2010 census calculations included 21 year olds and they weren't supposed to. In addition to having to fix the error with the 2010 census figures the NYS Legislature included a modest legislative add to the YDDP, SDPP and RHYA funding streams. OCFS has to incorporate these legislative adds into their new County allocation charts. It is anticipated that the new 2012 allocation figures will arrive sometime in May. If allocations are received within the next two weeks Joanne will try to call a special Youth Board meeting to determine agency allocations. Agencies have had to wait long enough without knowing if, or how much, funding will be allocated to them. Many are struggling. Because of the Memorial Day holiday Joanne's legislative committee is meeting a week earlier than usual in May (5/21). The Youth Board would have to have set allocations prior to 5/21 in order for her Legislative Committee to review and authorize funding resolutions to go before the Board of Supervisors at their June meeting. If we don't meet this deadline, the Youth Board will set allocations at our regular June meeting and it will be July before the Board of Supervisors will be able to act upon the funding

resolutions and actual County Agreements can be executed with agencies. This would leave agencies operating for a full 6 months without funding. This is NOT an acceptable way to do business. According to Joanne agencies are currently billing the Youth Bureau for their first quarter expenses with the hope that they will be reimbursed, as it is not their fault that they haven't received any allocations. They submitted their funding proposals last fall (2011) in accordance with our standard RFP process. They should not have to be penalized because OCFS and the OYD office are a mess. Community Action Mentoring Program and Project Café will get what they asked for because they agreed to participate in the Results Scorecard and PQA pilots. There will be at least a 25% reduction on all programs.

- **Results Scorecard Pilot** – The program measures and corresponding data have been entered into the scorecard for the CAP Mentoring Program, Project Café and the Safe Place for Youth RHYA program. The charts and graphs are good and are very helpful when making sense of the information. Once another quarter's data has been entered Joanne will pull the information up online at a Board meeting so that all can see the type of information the scorecard provides for each program. One result that has become immediately obvious has been how good a job the CAP Mentoring program has done keeping program involved youth from further involvement in the JJ and PINS systems. The Mentoring Program has shown to be a good preventative program. The typical age of youth for the mentoring program is 8-12 years old, the length of the program is 18 months, and there is currently a waiting list. The program tracks school attendance and academic achievement of mentees through their report cards. They will also start tracking other community involvement the youth are connected to. They do the best they can with a poorly resourced program and limited funds.
- **Program Quality Assessment (PQA) Pilot** – Regarding Project Café, Tina and a college Intern completed the observations. They observed 2 sessions of the after school program, at separate times, and then compared notes. They redid this and redid this to obtain valid responses. Before setting out to complete the observations they reviewed the PQA tool and came to a mutual understanding about how to rate their responses. This was similar to how they completed observations for CAP, except they were completed by Tina and an outside evaluator. This was a very long, intensive process, which revealed some challenges with the tool. The scale was listed on a 1, 3, 5 scale and was adapted from a larger tool to fit the needs of OCFS. They found weaknesses in the tool regarding assessing our programs here. The programs assessed are not structured programs; things on the tool didn't necessarily apply to each program (the wording on the tool was also confusing at times). The tool did seem to generate a lot of discussion and once the scores were described they can look to see how it impacts what they decide to do in the future with the programs. There was more variability in the CAP results, as the two mentor/mentee workshops that were observed had very different formats. The tool brought to light that Project Café has insufficient written policies and procedures, which they are in need of. During an observation there was a fire alarm, at which point no one had a plan on what needed to be done. There are issues with having one staff person on and having kids in one building and others crossing the street to play outside (issues with supervision). This generated valuable information, which started a lot of conversations. They also seemed to have weak communication between the afterschool program staff and board members. Unfortunately, the Board had not communicated with the staff about the PQA process so did not know what Tina and the other evaluator were

assessing. Tina talked to staff, which went from very defensive to having a positive attitude. The conversation focused on what needed to be improved, the board invited Tina to their next meeting. Tina stated that it was a great learning process for her and helped her understand the programs much better. Joanne said it offered an in-depth focus. The next piece is to look at program improvement plans; there is a formal model that will be used.

4.) Madison County Fair – The activity tent will be open from 10-4 on Saturday July 14, 2012. They are desperate for more people to participate in the tent. Katey gave a referral to Wolf Mountain and Augustine’s Karate; suggestions for Zumba, dance studies, and additional youth organizations.

5.) Youth Development Specialist Report – During the month of April (local government month) she coordinated 3 separate job shadow days at the County Complex; the overall feedback was positive and offered good experiences for the youth. The recycling center was a new site for a job shadow. The Chittenango H.S. group will hold a workshop for 5th graders on May 24, 2012, which will be modeled after their experiences at the December workshop at Marshall Farms. Chittenango Middle School group (all boys) has had three sessions (3 weeks). The first week went really well, very focused. Beyond the meetings with Tina, each youth hooked up with an adult mentor in school to talk about the topic/discussions they had in the group with Tina. A student shadowed Tina and went with her to Chittenango. She held 2 “First Impressions” workshops at the Canastota Public Library; 17 teens showed up. They discuss things such as first impressions and handshakes.

6.) Miscellaneous – N/A

7.) Next Meeting – June 5, 2012 at 5:30 pm in the Supervisors Conference Room, 2nd Floor, County Office Building, Wampsville.

Motion to adjourn made by Jill, seconded by Dawn. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.