

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 it's 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