

Madison County Youth Board and Collaboration for Community Change Meeting
Gorman Foundation Community Center, Oneida
August 5, 2014

Donna Cashman, Youth Board Member

Dawn Post, Youth Board Member, Program Coordinator, Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Program

Ron Carey, Youth Board Member

Kathy Caezza, Youth Board Member

Jill Moore, Youth Board Member

Zak Messenger-Harris, Work Project Lead Instructor, Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Program

Rich Collins, Work Project Lead Instructor, Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Program

Sharon Taylor, Owner, Tim Horton's Café and Bake Shop, Oneida, Tim Horton Camp

Kim Cox, Case Manager, At Risk Youth & Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties

Julie Hengst, Prevention Education Specialist, Reality Check, BRiDGES

Lauren Davie, Reality Check Specialist, Reality Check, BRiDGES

Jim Haugli, Job Coordinator, Operation Northern Comfort

Kim Nowakowski, 4H Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County

Gabriella Nowakowski, 4H Member

Dee Schafer, Humane Educator, Wanderers Rest

Kate Howard, Chittenango Leadership Group Member

Marie Kocher, Mother to Kate Howard

Cole Jackson, Chittenango Leadership Group Member

Dennis Hoover, Mentoring Supervisor, Mentoring Program, Community Action Partnership, and Youth Pastor/Worship Pastor, Church on the Rock

Jessica Ginney, Mentoring Match Coordinator, Mentoring Program, Community Action Partnership

Conor Laughlin, Chittenango Leadership Group Member

CiCi Laughlin, Mother to Conor

Sean Laughlin, Father to Conor

Sydney Laughlin, Sister to Conor

Joanne Eddy, Director, Madison County Youth Bureau

Tina Louis, Youth Development Specialist, Madison County Youth Bureau

Everyone was invited to a light dinner prior to the program.

Welcome, Introductions, Youth Bureau Report

Joanne Eddy began by thanking everyone for coming and for the Gorman Foundation for allowing us to use the meeting space. Joanne commented on the many Youth Bureau collaborations that were represented in the room and the need for organizations to continue to network and collaborate with each other to further expand opportunities for young people within their organizations and in our communities.

Joanne shared that this year the Youth Bureau is administering a new Youth Development Program funding stream that combines two former funding streams into one, with new rules and regulations. The change has allowed for a new look at programs that have been funded for years as well as new ideas to be considered. The Youth Bureau has also incorporated a new evaluation process over the past few years known as the Program Quality Assessment. The PQA involves a combined observation and administrative review to determine if programs are meeting the eight features of positive youth development. Joanne also reviewed the

Results Based Accountability format that allows for program outcomes to be monitored and reported to the state. The oversight of programs is very important to the ongoing function of the Youth Bureau in Madison County.

Tina Louis then did a general introduction of the audience to illustrate the variety of people who have come together and to acknowledge the programs working in Madison County to provide opportunities for youth.

Tina then offered a year in review of Youth Bureau activities.

The Youth Bureau again coordinated activities for children in the Youth Tent at the Madison County Fair on July 12th. Over a dozen Madison County organizations and a number of libraries were involved in offering free activities in the tent. The Red Cross was generous in offering a donation of kites, board games and puzzles which were distributed to children.

With regard to presentations, Teambuilding workshops and the *First Impressions, Lasting Impact* workshop on presentation skills was offered to youth in various locations.

An overview of the Chittenango Leadership Group was offered. Year 1 focuses on building leadership and personal skills while Year 2 focuses on service to the community. A transition program is offered in the summer between years to allow for students to be exposed to service opportunities. Year 1 students completed 20 sessions with sessions on decision making, goal setting, leadership, teambuilding, presentation skills and career exploration. Eight students were involved in the program with six students presenting a teambuilding workshop to about ninety 4th and 5th graders at Bridgeport Elementary School in May 2014. Students were also offered a career exploration trip to Wampsville to visit five county departments. The summer program has so far included volunteering at Wanderers Rest and the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, with a trip to Church on the Rock and a return visit to Wanderers Rest. Summer projects are based on the interests of the group. Year 2 students focused on service. Some highlights of their activities include a teambuilding workshop offered to 5th graders at Bridgeport Elementary in October 2013, a presentation about the Leadership Program at the Chittenango School Board in December 2013, and construction on a house damaged by flooding in February 2014. All total, the group completed 12 group service activities with 8 different community organizations from August 2013 to July 2014 in addition to independent service activities. Due to the success of the program the Youth Bureau has been asked to duplicate the program in the Cazenovia School District. Fifteen students have expressed interest in starting in October 2014.

The Youth Bureau partners with Cornell Cooperative Extension to offer the Local Government Intern Program. The program runs for eight weeks and helps youth understand how local government operates through presentations and visits to county departments. The Youth Bureau facilitates lessons on understanding resolutions, aspects of county functions, making a good first impression and provides coordination of a full day job shadow. Career exploration in the form of job shadowing and field trips has been offered to 170 different students from 9 Madison County school districts with the cooperation of 15 county departments with a total of 71 different career tracks.

Program and Group Sharing

Throughout the evening there were reports by guests regarding the many programs offered for youth in Madison County and their impact on both youth and the community.

Conor Laughlin shared how being involved in the Leadership program helped him to increase his confidence and improve his leadership skills. These skills allowed him to take on increased leadership responsibilities in the Boy Scouts, in which he is an active member, and just completed work in July as a camp counselor. His

parents, CiCi and Sean also commented on the improvement they have seen, how the group helped Conor to make new friends, and the personal support the group provided during the school year.

Dee Schaefer, Humane Educator, spoke about the importance of the work of volunteers and the value of exposing youth to the activities that occur at Wanderers Rest. She mentioned how the organization has been busy with many hoarding and abuse/neglect cases and that it is important that youth learn the importance of caring for animals appropriately as well as the value of hard work.

Jim Haugli, Job Coordinator for Operation Northern Comfort explained how the group started as Operation Southern Comfort helping families affected by Hurricane Katrina. As it became more difficult to offer trips south the group switched their focus to the north. ONC has been able to help families locally. The Leadership Group became involved with ONC in February 2014 in work on homes damaged by the 2013 summer flooding. Youth from local schools and colleges were very active in providing hands on labor. Their efforts are highly appreciated.

Dawn Post, Program Coordinator, along with Zak Messenger-Harris and Rich Collins, Work Project Lead Instructors for Madison-Oneida BOCES Summer Youth Employment Program, talked about the efforts made over the summer by Madison County youth. Dawn reviewed the activities of the four different work sites. Zak commented that he was impressed with the hard work and dedication of the youth. This was the first time Zak had worked with the program and found it very rewarding. Rich also commented on the hard work of students. Students involved in the program are paid and learn job skills they can utilize for future employment. Dawn praised the two for doing such a great job with their students.

Sharon Taylor, Owner of Tim Horton's Café and Bake Shop in Oneida spoke about their camp opportunity. Each year, the first Wednesday in June is Tim Horton's Camp Day. Camp Day is the one day each year when restaurant owners donate 100 per cent of the proceeds from coffee sales to the Tim Horton Children's Foundation (THCF), to provide free camperships to disadvantaged kids. This year two young ladies from Oneida were offered a 10 day all expenses paid camp experience to the Tim Horton's Camp in Kentucky. Sharon shared the thank you letters from the girls and thanked Tina Louis from the Youth Bureau and Marcie Soule from the Department of Social Services for helping to find the campers and get their very comprehensive applications completed. For more information about Camp Day go to <http://www.timhortons.com/us/en/social/camp-day.php>. Mark your calendars for next year's Camp Day: Wednesday, June 3rd.

Kim Nowakowski, 4H Educator, and Gabriella Nowakowski, 4H Member, shared about program activities and commented on how 4H Clubs help young people develop skills and leadership abilities. Kim encouraged anyone who would like to get involved with 4H in their community to contact her. Gabriella spoke about how being a 4H member has helped her to improve her personal skills and confidence. She will be showing her rabbit at the NYS Fair.

Julie Hengst, Prevention Education Specialist with Reality Check of BRiDGES spoke about the efforts Reality Check is making to address the tobacco industry's targeting of youth and about the changes the program has experienced with its funding. Julie also announced that BRiDGES will be moving its offices to downtown Oneida in August.

Dennis Hoover, Mentoring Supervisor for the Mentoring Program through Community Action Partnership spoke about the importance of youth having a mentor and what the program does to support youth. Dennis is also the Youth Pastor at Church on the Rock in Oneida and oversees the Pillar Youth Center, a Youth Bureau funded after school program for youth that currently runs one day a week. In addition to serving Oneida youth, the program offers transportation from Chittenango for youth who had initiated their involvement when

the church was located there. Dennis shared that the program has added a snack bar to encourage youth to stay on the premises as well as turn over the operation little by little to youth so they can gain an ownership of activities. The building will be undergoing renovations soon to improve the look of the Youth Center.

Kim Cox, Case Manager for the At Risk Youth & Runaway and Homeless Youth Program operated by Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison Counties spoke about the program and offered information for everyone to take. The program is funded by the Youth Bureau.

Dawn Post spoke in place of Carol Watros from BOCES regarding the TASC, Test Assessing Secondary Completion. She stated that the test is harder than the former GED and offered information to anyone interested in further clarity.

Open to Sharing from the Audience

Tina asked Cole Jackson, Leadership Group Member if he would like to help close the program by sharing what he gained from being in the Leadership Group. Cole said that he was very shy and scared when he started the program, but gained confidence in himself over time. He finds that he is able to talk to more people now. Kate Howard said that the program gave her a sense of family. Her mother, Marie shared that Kate did not share much about the program at first, but was more vocal when the group attended the Wampsville tour of departments and when the group did presentations for the elementary school. Tina commented that Kate attends Pillar Youth Center as well. The many opportunities for youth in Madison County help them to feel supported and increase their personal skills. She thanked the group for working with youth and supporting their development.

Closing and Adjourn

Tina thanked everyone for coming, for their work with youth. She encouraged people stay to connect and network.

Joanne also thanked the group and shared that this meeting always reenergizes her for the work that she does.

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

Respectfully submitted by Tina Louis