

**Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes**  
**5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**County Office Building, Wampsville**  
**February 3, 2015**

**Members:**

Donna Cashman, Jill Moore, Sharon Taylor, Cole Jackson, Kalila Lehner, Carol Musacchio, (note - Ron Cary made an effort to participate in the meeting via Vidyo but due to technical difficulties was locked out of the system. He was polled after the meeting to obtain his vote on funding decisions-see Postscript)

**Staff:**

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

*The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.*

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2015 Youth Board Meeting. Motion made by Kalila; seconded by Carol; unanimously approved.

**2. Approve RHYA Funding for the Catholic Charities Interim Family Home Program:**

Joanne provided an overview of the RHYA funding stream for those new to the Board. This funding must be used for services to runaway & homeless youth and must be allocated to an OCFS certified RHY provider. Catholic Charities is Madison County's sole certified RHY provider. As with all program proposals received, the approved proposal narrative becomes the 'Scope of Services' portion of the county contract with the organization. There is \$42,000 available (\$27,000 OCFS RHYA funds; \$15,000 county match). Catholic Charities is also required to provide a 20% match. Their match is an in-kind contribution of administrative oversight staff and services. Joanne noted that Catholic Charities does not have any interim family homes certified to house youth yet, but staff is in the process of recruiting. As this is a non-competitive, sole source contract, Joanne asked for a vote approving the proposal to get the contract process moving through the County system so that it can be approved at the March Board of Supervisor's meeting. The contract will be for services provided during the period of January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015. This will be the first full year of Catholic Charities running this program so it should provide a better sense of what it really costs to run this program. The program didn't get up and running until March in 2014, so the 2014 program expenditures were not reflective of the full year cost of the program.

**Jill made the motion to allocate \$42,000 of RHY funding to the Catholic Charities Interim Family Home program. Sharon seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 7 in favor (includes Ron's vote); 0 opposed. Motion carried.**

**3. Review Proposals Requesting Youth Development Program Funds:**

Joanne reminded everyone to keep in mind that just because an agency can write a good proposal does not mean it can operate a good program and if a proposal is not written well it may not mean that it is a bad program. Also, the Board is free to fund a program at a different amount than requested. For the first time, the total amount of program funds requested is less than the \$55,000 we have to allocate. Joanne asked everyone to make funding allocations based on the quality of programs being proposed. We know we will have funds left over and will decide how we want to proceed with the excess funds after the programs that submitted proposals have been reviewed and funding decisions regarding them

have been made. We may decide to target the excess funding for specific programming where we feel that there is a need that isn't being met.

Board members were asked to submit their proposal ratings as per the rating rubric to Joanne prior to the meeting. Joanne compiled an average overall ratings list. The ranking list is as follows:

1. Youth Bureau Youth Leadership Program	30.1
2. Community Action Mentoring Program	28.6
3. Catholic Charities Community Case Management for At Risk Youth	27.3
4. INROADS Life Skills Training Program	26.9
5. Village of Hamilton Learn to Swim Program	25.1
6. Canastota Library Ready, Set, Robotics Program	22.9

Joanne distributed a grid which showed the funding history of programs for the last two funding cycles to provide additional background information to help in funding decisions.

Joanne stated that we can talk about the submissions we have and see if the Board is at consensus on any. If there is consensus on allocations for year-round programs (BRiDGES, CAP and Case Management) the Board might want to consider taking votes on them tonight so that the contract process could get started. The Village of Hamilton and the Canastota Library proposals are summer programs and do not necessitate a vote tonight. If no decisions are made then decisions will be deferred to next month.

### **ACT for Youth: Youth Leadership Program**

As discussed at the last meeting, Joanne asked the group to decide how they wanted to address the funding request for the ACT for Youth Leadership program ...take funds being allocated off top before looking at competitive pool of applicants; vote on funding as part of competitive pool; don't fund at all. Discussion ensued. Questions were raised regarding why Joanne did not list the Youth Board under the Board of Directors section of the proposal. Joanne clarified that the Health & Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors is actually the governing Board of the Youth Bureau with the Youth Board serving in an important community advisory capacity. Several questions were asked about why the program's budget didn't include funds for youth activities, such as taking youth to a ropes course. Joanne responded that the budget has to be consistent with what is contained in the Youth Bureau's approved County budget. Funds being requested are part of the anticipated Revenue portion of the Youth Bureau's budget.

**Sharon made the motion to approve the ACT for Youth Leadership proposal and take off the top \$7,000 for the program. Jill seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 6 in favor; 0 opposed. Motion carried.**

### **Community Action Mentoring Program**

Joanne explained that the Mentoring Program is based on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters model and can serve as many youth as they have volunteers. The program has always been challenged in recruitment of enough mentors, especially males. Joanne reviewed positive past performance in consistently tracking and meeting outcomes working within their budget. Since 2009 the program has maintained a level of 100% of youth not entering the child welfare or juvenile justice system as PINS while involved in the program. Prior to 2009, 96% attained this outcome. All youth in the program are at risk. This alone is a huge cost savings of keeping youth out of the system. Joanne stated they are

running a quality program and could have asked for more money. The question arose as to the flexibility to allocate more to agencies which is up to the discretion of the Board.

**Jill then made a motion to approve CAP for at least the requested amount of \$9,200 to be firm ed up in the future. Carol seconded the motion. Final allocation vote to be taken at March meeting.**

Kalila asked if CAP has been reviewed. Joanne stated that CAP has undergone reviews as well as the PQA under the pilot. The mentor-mentee time together is difficult to observe as it would disrupt the interaction, so the observation in the PQA was based on group gatherings. Tina gained a good sense of how the matches interacted in the group setting utilizing the PQA tool.

**After no further discussion Donna called for a vote on Jill's motion.**

**Vote: 6 in favor; 0 opposed. Motion carried.**

### **Catholic Charities Community Case Management for At Risk Youth**

Joanne explained that the Case Management program is the companion piece to the RHY contract. The companion money given is realistic and allows Catholic Charities to provide case management services to any youth in need of it. RHY and case management are tracked separately, but it is seamless to the young person. In 2014, Catholic Charities served 13 youth in RHY and 13 separately in case management. It is anticipated that the numbers will dramatically increase this year as the program was only operational for nine months during its first year. Discussion focused on areas of the application that needed more clarification to which Joanne was able to offer the Board information on ages served and locations at which youth were served.

**Kalila made the motion to give \$12,000 to the Catholic Charities Community Case Management for At-Risk Youth program. Cole seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 7 in favor (includes Ron's vote); 0 opposed. Motion carried.**

### **BRiDGES INROADS Life Skills Training Program**

The Board discussed issues with outcomes and fidelity taking into account the program history and the proposal presented. There were also a number of inconsistencies within the proposal that led to confusion regarding proposed numbers served as well as concerns involving the evaluation instruments. These are not new concerns. This was reflected in the minutes from the February 4, 2014 Youth Board Meeting minutes when 2014 allocation decisions were being made. The minutes said:

*"Life Skills is a research based program BRiDGES is allowed to use by OASAS. Over time there has been concern with the results not mirroring what the program is supposed to get. The program is however the only substance abuse prevention program for youth currently happening in Madison County. It was suggested that INROADS be awarded some funding, but not at the level requested. If we do not see different results this year then next year they should not be funded."*

**Jill made the motion not to fund the BRiDGES INROADS program in 2015. Carol seconded the motion.**

Carol asked if BRiDGES would be allowed to re-apply for funding if they wanted next year. Joanne responded that the RFP process is open-competitive and all organizations meeting the qualifications are encouraged to apply. Joanne would really like to see substance abuse prevention/intervention programs being made available to students in high school as previous TAP Survey data has shown that it is students in the high school grades that are more actively involved with alcohol and other drugs and

that substance abuse prevention programming being done in the earlier grades does not seem to be carrying over to the high school level.

**Carol reiterated her second of the motion.**

**Vote: 6 in favor; 0 opposed. Motion carried.**

Joanne suggested that the Board discuss this decision at the next meeting to gain the opinions of Board members not in attendance and to ensure that everyone was confident with the decision.

**Jill rescinded her original motion and moved to table the discussion until the March meeting. Carol seconded.**

Joanne stated that in the interest of time that we suspend discussion on any further proposals until the next meeting. The Board can leave the other proposals until the next meeting as time is not an issue for programs occurring in the summer, namely Village of Hamilton Learn to Swim Program and Canastota Library Ready, Set, Robotics Program.

As we do have consensus on some proposals, Joanne asked permission of the Board to go ahead on the RHY and Case Management programs as they were discussed and voted on by the Board and that the group can finish finalizing others next month. All agreed.

**4. Youth Development Specialist's Report:**

In the interest of time Tina will save her full report for another month.

**5. Miscellaneous:**

Sharon announced last month that campers were being sought for summer camp funded through the Tim Horton Foundation. Sharon updated the Board that she just submitted two camp applications for two young boys from Oneida for consideration for Tim Horton Camp Kentahten in Campbellsville, Kentucky in the summer. Both Sharon and the kids are very excited about the opportunity.

**6. Next Meeting – March 3, 2015, 5:30 p.m., Supervisors Conference Room**

**Kalila made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon seconded.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.**

*Postscript: on February 4, 2015 Ron Carey was polled regarding a vote on the two Catholic Charities proposals after difficulties with the Vidyio conference system locked him out of the meeting. He approved \$42,000 for Catholic Charities RHYA and \$12,000 for CC Community Case Management for At-Risk Youth.*

**Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis**