

**Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes**  
**5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**County Office Building, Wampsville**  
**January 5, 2016**

**Members:**

Ron Cary, Beth Totten, Donna Cashman, Carol Musacchio, Sharon Taylor, Kalila Lehner, Jo Perkins, Cole Jackson

**Staff:**

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

*The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. Introductions were made and Beth Totten was welcomed to the Youth Board.*

**1. Election of Officers**

After a brief discussion Carol made a motion to nominate Kalila to serve as Chair of the Madison County Youth Board; seconded by Jo; unanimously approved.

Kalila made a motion to nominate Cole as Vice Chair of the Madison County Youth Board; seconded by Donna; unanimously approved.

**2. Approve Minutes from the December 1, 2015 meeting:**

Motion made by Ron to accept the December 5, 2015 minutes as presented; seconded by Sharon; unanimously approved.

**3. Recommending the Appointment of New Member to the Board:**

Freeda Windland is the Reading Specialist/English AIS/SST Coordinator at Cazenovia Jr. Sr. High School. Tina shared that Freeda was the impetus for the Leadership Program at Cazenovia High School and has been a valuable support for the program. Freeda is very interested in meeting the needs of youth and was very excited to hear about openings on the Youth Board. Freeda does not reside in Madison County, but represents the Cazenovia Central School District.

Beth made the motion to recommend the appointment of Freeda Windland for a two year term to the Youth Board; seconded by Jo; unanimously approved.

**4. Director's Report:**

**Departmental Move:** Tina is now located in the DSS building, which at some point is supposed to be renamed the Health and Human Services building. Joanne will move to her new space sometime later in January if the weather permits. The space is not ideal, as there is no public access to the Youth Bureau office. You have to go through security and through the DSS Medicaid unit to get to the Youth Bureau. This lack of direct public access changes the dynamics of the office a lot.

**2016 RFP Process:** The RFP went out in December. An informational session was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>. A few organizations attended, some of whom did not apply in 2015, so we anticipate some proposals for new programs and a better mix of programs from throughout the County.

All proposals are due by the end of the day January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Joanne will send proposals out to the Board with the rating rubric. Board members may receive multiple e-mails with attachments. Joanne does not anticipate decisions at the February meeting. Board members are asked to rate proposals and send them in. Once all ratings are averaged it will give us a starting point for looking at the funding. Everyone should receive proposals by the end of January. We will vote on the Catholic Charities RHY funding in February, as theirs is a sole source contract. The allocations for the competitive proposals for Youth Development Program (YDP) funding will be decided at the March meeting.

Joanne has the baseline allocations for 2016 and will know if the Governor has made any changes on January 13<sup>th</sup> when the Governor's proposed 2016/2017 budget is released. Any decrease changes what we have to award. We might see extra money for the RHY population as rumor has it that the Governor will include additional funding for homeless youth in his proposed budget to make up for their exclusion in last year's budget.

**RHY Interim Family Home:** We officially have one certified RHY interim family home. It is located in Oneida and is certified to house females only at the request of the family. It has been a lengthy process to get the application completed and approved. Joanne is hopeful that the next one will go smoother and quicker. Joanne shared that she suggested Catholic Charities add a stipend piece to their 2016 budget for the host family when they house a child. The board had questions about the typical length of stay. Joanne explained there is a 30 day limit for the stay with a possible 30 day extension contingent on her approval as the RHY Coordinator for Madison County. The average stay is typically three to four days/weekend. It is voluntary and youth are regulated when in the home. For youth under the age of 18, where appropriate, the plan is to provide a stable, supervised living situation while working to stabilize the home situation through counseling or mediation leading to a reunification of the youth with their parents. For youth between the ages of 18-21 the plan often is to house the youth while helping them develop a more permanent, stable living situation which may not involve reunification with their family.

**New Rules and Regulations with New Funding Stream:** The new rules and regulations being developed by OCFS as a result of the development of the new Youth Development Program funding stream in 2014 are finally out for public comment. The language related to staffing is worrisome. It is worded that there must be an Executive Director or other designee, which is concerning. The reality is that OCFS has done a number of mergers and the language change is a cleanup of poor past mergers. The language is a further weakening of the administrative structure of the Youth Bureau.

##### **5. Youth Development Specialist's Report:**

**LGI Program:** The final session was held December 15<sup>th</sup>. The mock board meeting went very well. Final grades were shared with Cazenovia today and will be shared with Oneida on Thursday. There was a wide range in grades which reflected the level of effort students put forward. Tina is in the process of working on recruitment for the next session, Wednesdays, February 24<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Chittenango and Cazenovia Leadership Group:** About 10 students are regularly attending at both schools. The midpoint inventory was completed in Cazenovia today will be done in Chittenango soon.

##### **6. Miscellaneous:**

Nothing to report.

##### **7. Next Meeting – February 2, 2016:**

Jo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Donna seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis**