

**Madison County Youth Board Meeting Minutes**  
**5:30 pm, Supervisors Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**County Office Building, Wampsville**  
**June 4, 2013**

**Members:**

Ron Cary, Dawn Post, Jill Moore, Kathy Caezza

**Staff:**

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

*The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.*

**1. Motion to approve Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve Minutes from the April 2, 2013 Youth Board Meeting by Ron. Seconded by Jill, all approved.

**2. Program Updates:**

**Safe Place for Youth:** Liberty Resources has not had an interim family home in a year and has shown no effort to recruit one. This is problematic in that the program is required to have one and Joanne has talked at length before and during the allocation process about this issue. The Youth Bureau cannot give money to anyone else to run this program, as at this point in time Liberty Resources is the only certified agency in this County authorized by OCFS to operate an Interim Family Home program, and no other organization can take it on without going through a long certification process. The program is needed as it is the only program in the county designed to provide a short-term housing option as well as case management to housing vulnerable youth. It is required to have at least one interim family home.

The Legislative Committee of the Board of Supervisors that oversees the Youth Bureau's activities inquired about how the Safe Place program was doing when they were presented with the resolution to approve this year's contract with Liberty Resources to operate the program. Joanne shared that there is a problem with the lack of interim family homes and that youth are being sent out of County for housing, often to Booth House in Syracuse. Youth from Madison County do not typically do well there as it is in downtown Syracuse and they are not comfortable there. The Committee is unhappy with the fact that no interim family homes exist and that there are no assurances that Liberty is doing anything about it. The Committee is very uncomfortable with sending kids out of county for services. Providing in-county short-term housing options is one of the main reasons the program exists. The Committee asked to meet with a representative from Liberty Resources at their June meeting. Joanne has never had a request to bring an agency in front of the Legislative Committee before. Liberty Resources receives a large amount of money through various contracts with DSS and Mental Health. Other departments do not require the level of fiscal reporting and program monitoring and evaluation that the Youth Bureau does. Kathy asked what the money is funding if it is not funding the interim family homes. Joanne explained that the money currently covers a full time staff person who provides case management to connect youth to services to either facilitate them being reunited with their families wherever appropriate, or to find other suitable housing options when not appropriate. Case management is offered to about 60 kids over a course of a year. The staff person also oversees community Safe Place sites. Sites that are designated as a Safe Place must undergo annual training to maintain their status through the national Safe Place program. The staff person also must recruit

interim family homes. Joanne will report back to the Youth Board regarding what occurred at the June Committee meeting. She also plans to talk with the new director of Catholic Charities of Madison/Oneida Counties to determine if Catholic Charities has any interest in seeking certification to operate the interim family Home program in the future if things can't be worked out with Liberty Resources. Catholic Charities ran an Interim Family program in Madison county from 1998 – 2003 so the OCFS certification process should be much quicker with them than any other local organization.

**2014 Funding:** Cathy asked if we will be inviting proposals for next year. Joanne stated that she will be issuing a competitive RFP for 2014 funding once she has more information regarding the new rules and regulations that will be developed for the new Youth Development Program funding stream that will go into effect in 2014. There could be more money available to allocate to organizations to operate youth development programs as we would no longer have to set aside money for municipal recreation programs. All municipalities who want to get funding will need to submit a program proposal through the competitive RFP process. Most municipalities do not have the capacity to submit a proposal of this sort. Joanne is concerned for next year as the distribution formula will be different and at this time she does not know if the change will help or hurt us. The current formula is based on the census per capita youth population, so the more kids we have the more money we would receive. However, there is wording that references the per capita figure plus other factors, which could include youth in poverty, which would hurt our county as we have a low percentage of youth in poverty.

**Local Government Interns (LGI):** Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) traditionally ran the LGI program on the county campus. The program allows students to learn about departments, the function of the Board of Supervisors, and students hold their own mock board meeting in addition to other activities. Due to staffing issues at CCE, the Youth Bureau officially became partners with CCE this year in offering LGI and took on additional responsibility with the program and offered technical support through the planning process. The program ran in the Fall with the understanding that it would not run in the Spring. The biggest contributor to the program is Cazenovia which is the only school that runs a bus. CCE offers transportation to other schools that cannot fund a bus. There have been several issues that have arisen this past spring that have threatened the continuation of the program this Fall. Most have been dealt with now, but we are still working out a plan to deal with the decision by the Board of Supervisors to change their monthly meeting time from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. which would not allow LGI to have contact with the Board of Supervisors. Ron suggested that students attend committee meetings as much of the work of the Board is done in committees. Joanne will share this suggestion with CCE and the County Administrator.

**Youth Tent:** The Youth Bureau became involved with the Madison County Fair in 2009 through encouragement from the Historian at the time. The Youth Bureau began running the events tent and has continued to do so each year of the Fair. The Youth Bureau takes over the tent and brings in agencies to showcase what they do and to run activities. Activities will run 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with 13 organizations involved this year. Each year the tent has gained or lost groups, which keeps the activities fresh each time. The tent is a good draw for youth and families in the morning as the midway does not open until 1:00 p.m. All organizations provide something interactive for kids and also promote their organizations. Included in the Youth Tent this year are: libraries, Chenango Canal Association Towpath Trail, Project Café, the Colgate Raider, Cooperative Extension, Jo Perkins, Heritage Farms, Literacy Coalition and Madison County Reads Ahead, Safe Place, Great Swamp Conservancy, Solid Waste, Dairy Princess, Youth Bureau mini golf and balloons. Promotion will

begin shortly once all groups have confirmed their activities. We have also been blessed this year with the donation of 100 children's board games that we will be distributing in the youth tent.

**3. Youth Development Specialist Report:**

A shadow experience with Environmental Health was offered to a Chittenango student in April. The student made the following comment on his evaluation: "This experience was a brilliant way of introducing students to what work in the field is like and what the requirements are."

The Chittenango Leadership Group was offered a tour of four county departments; Solid Waste and Sanitation, Employment and Training, the Sheriff's Office and the Courts. The group also facilitated a workshop at Bridgeport Elementary for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders entitled, "How to be the help or find the help in a bullying situation." The students did an excellent job acting out two skits on how to deal with bullying and shared their personal stories of how they dealt with it in their lives. Exit interviews were done with Group 1 Leadership members as this is the end of their involvement. Group 2 Leadership members were given post tests. Overall the students have done well in the Leadership Program and plans have been made to run Group 3 in the Fall with a new group starting in Cazenovia. Students involved in the Summer Youth Employment Program will be offered the First Impressions Workshop. The workshop was initially created and facilitated by youth for the Youth Leadership Conference in Albany in 2009. The workshop includes appropriate dress and behavior for the work setting, how to offer a proper handshake, presentation skills and eye contact. The Program Quality Assessment Tool (PQA) will be administered to Church on the Rock and Earlville Opera House over the summer. Dennis Hoover who oversees the after school program at the church is very enthusiastic about going through the process and is very open to using the tool as a way to improve the program. He will serve as the second observer.

**4. Miscellaneous:**

Joanne reported that she and Tina will soon be meeting with the Operations Coordinator/ Humane Educator at Wanderer's Rest, DeeAnn Schaefer, regarding children's programs. DeeAnn thought we would be a good match with youth programs. Dawn commented that DeeAnn is very good at what she does.

- 5. Next Meeting:** The Youth board does not meeting in July, so the next scheduled meeting is August 6, 2013. Joanne asked members if they would like to do a combined Youth Board and Collaboration for Community Change Meeting. The format would be as in years past in which we do an overview of Youth Bureau activities and open the meeting to area youth groups within Madison County to share their activities. Beyond the Youth Bureau we will invite other groups such as the Summer Youth Employment Program through BOCES, Reality Check and any contract agencies plus anyone else doing youth services. This has also been an excellent networking opportunity for everyone. All members agreed to this idea. The tentative location is Jim Marshall Farms Foundation. Start time will be 5:30 p.m. with a light dinner followed by presentations and ending around 7:30 p.m.

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

**Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis**