

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

**Members:**

Ron Cary, Bud Ballinger, Dawn Post, Donna Cashman, Lisa Reeves, Mindy Reeves, Jill Moore, Chris Crandall

**Guest:**

Stephanie Braun

**Staff:**

Joanne Eddy and Tina Louis

*Before getting started, introductions were made for the benefit of our guest and prospective board member Stephanie Braun.*

*The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.*

**1. Motion to approve Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve Minutes from the February 5, 2013 Youth Board Meeting by Bud. Seconded by Dawn, Motion Carries.

*Agenda items were moved up prior to presentations.*

**2. Approving Stephanie Braun for Appointment to the Board:**

A motion was made by Lisa to approve Stephanie Braun for appointment to the Youth Board, seconded by Mindy. All were in favor (8-0). Joanne will forward a resolution appointing Stephanie to the Youth Board to the Board of Supervisors for approval during their March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The term of appointment is to begin on April 1, 2013 and expire on December 31, 2014.

\*\*\* Please note that 2 days after the Youth Board meeting a member changed their vote to a 'no' due to fears that there might be a conflict of interest issue with the appointment. All members were reminded of the Youth Board's Conflict of Interest procedure. After being provided the option to change their vote and not receiving any additional requests from Youth Board members to change their vote, the resolution was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for action as originally planned with a majority vote of the Youth Board (7-1).

**3. Youth Development Specialist Report:**

Tina reported that she has been working to encourage organizations to go to the [www.volunteercny.org](http://www.volunteercny.org) website to create an account and post opportunities for youth on the Youth Volunteer Connection, a special section on the website for Madison County youth. A help session was held today for Community Action Partnership as they have a number of programs and require a unique way to post all opportunities so they are easily accessible.

Progress is steady and requires continuous connections with organizations. Tina encouraged the Board to visit the site and to reach out to local organizations not currently signed up to register. Tina is able to provide assistance to all organizations in need of support.

**4. Presentations – Programs Submitting Proposals for 2013 Funding:**

All programs submitting proposals were given 10 minutes each for program representatives to review their narrative and budget and to answer questions offered by the Board.

**Safe Place** – Virginia shared that the focus in 2013 would be in outreach and education regarding Safe Place. Virginia stated that the program seeks to provide direct service for at risk youth, case management, development of independent living skills, stable and safe housing and conflict resolution. One on one case management is done as well as referrals for needed services. There is a 24 hour hotline and a host home option. She stated that they will be recruiting community members to provide a short term housing option as a host home. Safe Place is a member of the nationally recognized program. The total requested in the budget has not changed. Costs have increased, but have been absorbed by the organization. Joanne reminded the Board that the program is required to have a 20 percent match. Bud noted that in the program it stated that since the inception of the program 250 youth have been served. Bud asked for a breakdown of services. Matt Lowery stated that 30 were hotline calls and 45 were enrolled in the program who received services between one and nine months. Bud asked about the criteria for case management. Matt explained that through the hotline call the youth is offered help or other information. Many referrals for the program come from school counselors. Most are offered help within one or two meetings. If more than two meetings are required the youth is enrolled in case management services. Just about every school in the county is a safe site. No host homes exist right now. When asked their plan Virginia stated that there are applications in process. Some cannot be completed due to family issues. She also stated they are looking into offering stipends to help establish a network as well as other marketing plans. One or two in the past year have needed a host home. Matt stated that the majority of calls are using relatives and friends. If no arrangement is possible they are referred to Booth House. This has happened twice in the last year. A few others have been placed in group homes. These were long term issues.

**Earlville Opera House (EOH)** – Patti Lockwood Blais reported out that EOH offers young people and families exposure to art and moves beyond the normal idea of art. Last year EOH did a marketing campaign to change its name to the Earlville Awesome House to reach out to new audiences. Activities were held in the park in Hamilton with a number of youth acts and local theater groups under 20 years old. More outreach has been done for young artists. The budget includes a small amount for staff. The rest goes to pay for four performances. Youth performers are more expensive. EOH works to write other grants to supplement performance fees and for advertisement. The request of \$4,850 is half of the expenses. Patti said EOH will adjust downward if funding is cut. Donna asked in all schools in Madison County get information on EOH events. Patti stated that she invites all schools to participate and contacts

all schools regarding publicity. Those who give permission to distribute publicity are sent cards to give to their student body. Donna also asked about evaluation processes and if Patti has utilized research based evaluation methods to show how arts enrich communities. Patti stated that she is aware of the research on enrichment, but stated it is beyond her level of expertise. Donna suggested inquiring through local colleges to see if a potential internship could address the area of evaluation. Patti said she would be interested in partnering with someone to do so.

**Project Café** – Barb Cudney and Lucy Shephard were present to review Project Café's information. Barb stated there is a need for youth to have a safe place to go after school in Cazenovia and Project Café meets this need. Youth feel comfortable in the after school setting with adults that can mentor them. Program runs from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. with two paid staff. Time is added on snow days and half and early dismissal days. Lucy commented that the Friend the Friend mentoring program for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders meets during the after school program hours. The budget goes toward covering the cost of paid employees for after school supervision and rent. Other donations come from M&T Bank and other donations from community outreach efforts. If funds were cut from the Youth Bureau then Project Café would step up its fundraising efforts.

**Church on the Rock** – Dennis Hoover reported that the after school program operates Thursdays, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. out of the church's building on the north side of Oneida, an area whose youth are in need of a safe place. The program is an open door for the local community. They have a zero bullying policy and encourage positive interaction. They recently opened a café in the building and students are staffing it. There is a leaders meeting weekly and students have opportunities to be involved in decision making. 137 youth came through the door throughout the year. Students have come from the Oneida area, but there are youth who have carried over from their original location in Chittenango, and some youth also come from the Canastota area. They usually get 30 to 40 kids during program ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. During the summer they do a food program. The budget goes toward rent of the building. When Joanne asked how a cut would affect operations, Dennis said they would determine a way to keep the program running.

**Community Action Partnership Mentoring Program** – Joanne Morak shared a scrapbook of the program. The Mentoring Program is a way to match youth up with a caring adult as well as connect youth with opportunities in their community so that after the 18 month experience ends the youth will have other opportunities at their disposal. Youth and their families benefit from the agency as a whole as other services are made available beyond mentoring. Training is offered to mentors and two family events are offered each year. Staff connect with mentors and families once a month or more depending on what is going on. Joanne said that if funding was cut they would determine another way to offer the program.

**INROADS** – Susan Jenkins stated that INROADS has been operating since 1998. The program offers skill building through the Life Skills program. Students who have completed the program felt the most important topics covered were managing stress, communication, and how to set goals related and not related to school. Staff complete classroom based lessons and make presentations to teachers and parents. Choices and Consequences is another facet for students who are referred after an incident. The program will be entering Brookfield to work with late elementary and early middle school students. The program is currently operating in Morrisville Eaton and Canastota. When asked if funding was cut to the agency what would be the effect, Susan said they would try to look at other ways to supplement what the staff person does.

*No proposal was submitted by Jim Marshall Farms.*

**Board Discussion** – After all programs reported there was discussion by the Board regarding questions raised through presentations. Donna suggested that any additional questions for the respective grantees be submitted to Joanne within the week.

Joanne reminded the group that there are different match requirements depending on the funding streams; for example SDDP does not require a match while YDDP does. Some budgets do not reflect where the match comes from. Joanne can fill in the blanks if there are questions with budgets as all prospective grantees have a history with the Youth Bureau.

Donna commented that in some instances the evaluation is lacking, that there are process outcomes listed but no real outcomes based objectives. Joanne agreed, but also cautioned that in many youth development programs it is difficult to quantify what the programs do and it is hard to evaluate them, for example the Earlville Opera House. Donna suggested a discussion with local academic leadership to see whether or not they would work with agencies to help programs formulate a better evaluation process.

The board discussed concerns with Safe Place and the lack of a host home and whether or not the program is providing what it is supposed to according to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and program outline. Donna suggested writing up issues that the board is not satisfied with as a contingency to funding to Liberty. Joanne stated that the issue with the funding is that it cannot just be switched to another agency, that there is a long process to be certified, so the board either gives Liberty the funding or it goes back to the state and no program exists. Joanne reviewed the history of issues with staffing and the budget. The program has changed from separate funding for case management and working with host homes and sites to one program to do everything.

Joanne suggested everyone jot down comments regarding each program as they review proposals. A big question for the April meeting will be how to deal with agencies that applied for YDDP funding.

5. **Miscellaneous:** none

6. **Next Meeting:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, 5:30 p.m., Supervisor's Conference Room, County Office Building

Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bud seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by Tina Louis**