

SHINE

Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2025

Members and Staff in Attendance: Dr. Sam Galloway, Gail Tishler, Maureen Parsell, Kassie Mashiak, Michael Szafir, Bob Schmidt, Arianna Flagg, Jen Griger, and Matthew Cox

Call to order by Matthew Cox at 10:42 a.m. in the Youth Programming Classroom at Kibbe Fuller, 619 Main St.

Welcome and Introductions: Matthew welcomed Erin Osterhoudt, Vaping Program Coordinator from Amplify and the members and staff present introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes: Due to lack of quorum, minutes were not approved.

Drug free Communities Grant Updates: Arianna reported that she missed the last SHINE meeting to participate in the final training session on SMART Recovery, a facilitated peer support program for adults and youth with substance use issues. She discussed possible options to implement the program in Somers schools, such during lunch, or, more likely, as an afterschool opportunity. She reported that Scott Driscoll led a presentation about internet safety and approaches parents can take to help manage and better ensure safety for youth with cell phones and other electronics. Eight parents attended in addition to school leaders, with many expressing interest in other opportunities. Another screening of Screenagers is likely on May 20, showing film 2, which focuses on screen time and mental health. Another possibility is showing the three-part series over the summer. Robust conversation focused on identifying effective approaches to engage parents. Dr. Galloway noted his concerns about and interest in helping parents better understand the impact of electronics and social media and finding ways to better engage them. Matthew mentioned his recent meeting with staff of The Network (Against Domestic Violence) from Enfield and that they wanted to share their presentations about Health Relationships with our students. Arianna announced that plans were in the works for this year's National Night Out event on August 5 from 5pm to 7:30pm at Field Road Park (rain date, August 6th).

Youth Service Bureau Updates:

Jen reported that she has received a significant number of new truancy referrals recently and that most are trauma involved, with additional complications such as substance use, poor academic performance, etc. She is working closely with middle and high school leadership as she meets with youth and families, and works to ensure a strategic, streamlined approach. Mike reported that families have commented positively on their experiences, and that positive changes have been noted. She also reported that activities and engagement at the Teen Center at the Somers Public Library remained high, with an average of about 25 youths participating daily. Space and noise are the primary challenges, but we are working with library staff.

Old Business

Matthew reported that the administration of the Youth Voices Count Survey to 7th and 8th graders went well on April 2nd, with an approximate completion rate of 85% (15% not completing the survey represents 19 parental opt outs and 13 students absent that day). He reported that data analysis by our consultants would commence after the high school surveys are completed on April 23, taking approximately 6 to 8 weeks for the full reports. He expressed hope that the data report could be presented to SHINE at the meeting on June 24.

Before adjourning, Matthew asked the group assembled to consider options for our next meeting, scheduled for May 27, the day after the Memorial Day holiday, which was not well attended last year. At Mike's suggestion, the group agreed to leave May 27 on the calendar and to send reminders with RSVPs a little earlier, canceling the meeting if not enough confirmations were received by May 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Cox