



**Somers Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board Minutes
November 12, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Jen Griger, Arianna Flagg, Ed DePeau, Renata Bowers, Colleen Meier, Gerard Joyal, Alex Murdoch, Kelley Garrison, Vicki Clark, Nathan Poirier

Absent: Matthew Cox

Guests: none

Call to Order: Arianna Flagg called the meeting to order at 4:33pm. Vicki moved, and Alex seconded a motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2025, as amended to reflect that Ed DePeau was not in attendance. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved.

New Business/Updates from the Field

- Schools: Parents of upper elementary looking for alternative type sports... Something outside of the competitive sports options. Also, opportunities for adaptive sports. Possibly an open gym. Is a parent survey possible to find out how many are interested?
- Student Representative: High school students feeling the pressure right now of college deadlines and sports.
- Law Enforcement: Things are fairly status quo right now.
- Chamber of Commerce: NCCT Chamber Acts of Kindness Awards. The Chamber recognizes middle school and high school students who are doing something kind. Award recipients receive a donation from the Chamber; recipients then choose to whom/which organization the donation should be gifted.
- Counted Out: Ed DePeau suggests this documentary be shown in the community, possibly sponsored by SYS. Possible tie with Dan Clement at the high school who is well-liked and has a deep interest in helping prepare students with real-life financial skills.
- Planning for 2026: SYS Member terms expire December 28. Members not wishing to continue need to let Youth Services staff know now.
- Meeting Schedule 2026: Tentative dates: March 12 and May 14.

Program Updates and Next Steps

Youth Service Bureau:

Jen reported the following recent or upcoming activities in Youth Services:

- Teen Center is looking for sponsors, people coming in to lead/teach. (2:20-5:00) Approximately 30-40 participating students.
 - Mondays: Teen Cuisine
 - Tuesdays: Survival Skills/DIY
 - Wednesdays: Game masters/Team Building
- Youth Diversion Team (formerly JRB). New training to implement, focus is now more counseling-based, not punitive. In the future, vaping occurrences will no longer be referred to YDT, but to a program.
- Stuff-a-Cruiser starts the day after Thanksgiving through December 13th. Families will shop Dec. 15-18.
- E-Bike & Bike Safety Training on Jan. 7th, 2:30-3:15pm at the Teen Center, put on by the Fire and Police Departments.

Prevention/SHINE Coalition:

Arianna reported that she has been collaborating with Somers Schools to implement a prevention education program for students called Healthy Futures. Expected launch is in the winter/spring.

She also reported that:

- Oct. 25 was Drug Take-Back Day. Collected 70 pounds of pills from the community. 50 pounds collected from the Police Station drop box. More than 9 pounds of liquid, and 7 full containers of sharps. Most attendance and recovery to date. Next is in April 2026.
- In collaboration with the Somers Fire Department and Amplify, SHINE hosted a Narcan training attended by 20 community members. Future trainings are in the works.

New Business

- Cell phone numbers were collected from all members, for the creation of an updated contacts list.

Meeting was called to adjourn by Arianna at 5:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renata Bowers, Secretary