

SHINE

Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2025

Members in attendance: Maureen Parsell, Joanne Nichting, Dr. Sam Galloway, Gail Tishler, Margot Martello, Kassie Mashiak, Kim Littig, and Matthew Cox

Call to order by Matthew Cox at 10:40 a.m. in the Blake Room at the Somers Public Library.

Welcome and Introductions: there were no guests present.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Margot to approve the meeting minutes from February 25th as presented. Joanne seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Drug free Communities Grant Updates: Matthew reported that Arianna could not be with us as today is the last day of her SMART Recovery Facilitator Certification Training. SMART stands for Self-Management and Recovery. The program is comprised of peer support groups that help people recover from addictive and problematic behaviors, using a self-empowering and evidence-informed program. She is also participating in training in the Stanford REACH Lab's "Health Futures" program. Other coalitions have implemented this program as an alternative to school suspension when youth are caught with vape or nicotine products at school.

He also noted that the work of Scout Collective continued to move forward in building out branding for SHINE and the framework for a website. The youth leadership council, which recently adopted the name Somers Youth for Change (SYC) was working on an anti-stigma campaign for National Prevention Week in May.

Matthew stated that he met with Matt Atwood from the Somers Fire Department to discuss their proposal to use Opioid Settlement Funds to purchase essential medical supplies needed when called to scenes of heroin overdose in Somers.

Our annual performance report and application for continuation funding for the Drug Free Communities grant was submitted March 15th. Upcoming events include a parent/adult only presentation by Scott Driscoll, a well-known speaker on social media and responsible use of technology, April 10th at SHS, 5:30pm.

Old Business

Matthew reported that the Youth Voices Count Survey would be administered to 7th and 8th graders on April 2nd. We await scheduling for Somers High School. Discussion ensued as to the timeline for receiving aggregate survey data and trend analysis by our consultants. Margot noted that it would be helpful to have this information in time for summer so that findings could be used when crafting plans and schedules for the coming school year. Dr. Galloway said it would be helpful to have the principals, Social Workers, and others together to review the findings and to make recommendations. Matthew agreed to confirm the schedule for receipt of analysis and trend data.

Before adjourning, Joanne noted that the Blake Room would be unavailable for our next meeting. Matthew agreed to confirm and notify all members that we will meet next on April 22 in the meeting room at Kibbe Fuller, 619 Main St.

Sam moved and Kassie seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Cox