



## Somers Youth Services Advisory Board Minutes-DRAFT

September 14<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Allison Maynard at 4:32pm.

Motion to approve the minutes by Brian Langan, seconded by Colleen Meier, approved by all.

- Introductions
  - Advisory board members introduced themselves.
- Department Update
  - Current programming
    - Allison Maynard provided an update on current programming that is being offered through the department for youth. Over the summer Youth Services piloted a Youth Adventure program which Allison reported was well received by the youth who participated. Youth Services is looking to expand this program next year. Also the department offered the Girls on the Run summer camp, VOICES program for middle school girls and the back-to-school clothing program. The back-to-school clothing program served 60 youth this year but had less donors. Discussed possibility of going to a gift card only model next year.
  - Future programming
    - Youth Services is in the process of hiring a part-time clinician to provide therapy to youth.
    - A MOU was recently signed with Stafford and Ellington to increase case management services to JRB participants. Aiden Connors will provide the services to all three towns.
    - \$5,000 grant request was submitted to Hartford Foundation Community Funds. Request was for equipment and supplies for after school drop in center.
- Drug Free Communities Grant
  - Discussed new DFC grant of \$600,000 for five years to support prevention work in the community. Allison will go before BOS on Thursday to request job description for prevention coordinator to be approved. This will be a full-time job.
- Recruitment of youth for board
  - Discussed Windham Leadership Academy model to build next generation of leaders in the community.

- Board noted that tapping into Junior Beta Club, Beta Club and speak with Mark Brown at MBA might all be ways to recruit more youth to participate in our work.

Motion to adjourn by Colleen Meier, seconded by Brian Langan. Meeting adjourned at 5:37.