

Somers Youth Services Advisory Board Minutes

October 12th @ 4:30pm

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Allison Maynard at 4:33.

Motion to approve the minutes by Colleen Meier, seconded by Ed DePeau, approved by all.

Members Present: Allison Maynard, Renata Bowers, Colleen Meier, Brian Langan, Aiden Matthews, Ed DePeau

Absent: Craig Jones, Joe Radziewicz, Cadence Bidwell

- Staffing Update
 - Hiring clinician for part-time work still underway. Two candidates to be interviewed tomorrow. There's a possible third.
 - Prevention Coordinator Position – hiring is still underway. Full-time benefitted position. Two interviews set up.
 - Working on reallocating space for new hires, departments.
 - Hope to take Aiden's position to full-time next year.

- Juvenile Review Board
 - Juvenile Review Board. Aiden hired as staff manager, part-time position. Getting started by updating contracts and intake details. Trooper Tyler is point person, Aiden will help lighten some of his load and help with intake and follow-up. This is a shift in the model, with more involvement for Youth Services to help provide more structure. Working out the kinks. Priority right now is getting information on youth before he/she comes to JRB. Schools deal with truancy matters at the high school by directly contacting Youth Services. Only youth who have been arrested go before the JRB.

- Fall Programming
 - In conversations with school system about a mentorship program, possibly pilot it at the middle school, for middle-schoolers (possibly elementary students, too) to be one-on-one mentored by adults. Governors Prevention Partnership (Hartford) does technical assistance to train mentors. Colleen shared that high school has a Big Brothers Big Sisters program (Lisa Grenier) that works with kids at middle and elementary schools.
 - Waiting for filling of position for the Prevention Coordinator to do more of that programming around prevention and community organizing.
 - Survey needs to be done in the school system in order to determine substance use/abuse, in order to inform use of DFC Grant. Ed suggested Advisory might be the best place to facilitate this.
 - Girls on the Run for middle school girls... no one signed up. Probably competes with cross country, which runs daily. Elementary GOTR should probably be Fall, middle school in Spring. Requires 5-6 hours of staff time a week, and you need two people to run it.
 - Assemblies by Dynamic Influence at the middle school and elementary school in November. Paid for with grant and opioid disbursement monies.
 - Normal programming will continue:
 - Holiday Program (toys for kids).

- Holiday Festival on December 10th from 4-7pm; will give out goody bags. Decorated wreaths are given to Youth Services families.
 - Scarecrow Festival on Oct. 22; all proceeds to go to Youth Services.
 - Direct Take Back Day will be Oct. 29 from 10-1 at Kibbe Fuller; locked medication bags will be distributed.
- Recruitment of Youth for Board
 - Would like for the advisory board to serve both Youth Services and Somers Comes Together. Is SADD active at school again? It's been defunct in past years.
 - Guidance counselors might have insights as to which students might be interested.
 - Youth Services/Social Services Offices
 - Running out of space at Kibbe Fuller
 - Looking at other locations
 - If Community Building is built in future, Rec would move there which would free more space in Kibbe Fuller
 - Meeting Schedule
 - Need to determine the best time and frequency to meet.
 - Keep it at the same time of day, and posted monthly, but open to canceling a meeting when not enough new to review.
 - Next meeting: November 9th @ 4:30pm.

Motion to Adjourn by Brian Langan, seconded by Colleen Meier. Meeting adjourned at 5:30.