

Somers Youth Services Advisory Board Minutes-DRAFT

November 9th @ 4:30pm

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

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

Members Present: Allison Maynard, Colleen Meier, Brian Langan, Aiden Matthews, Ed DePeau, Craig Jones, Paula LaJoie

Absent: Joe Radziewicz, Cadence Bidwell, Renata Bowers

- Staffing Update
 - Erin was hired for the PT Clinician position and comes with great working experience. She already has an active case load and works up to 10 hours/week. To increase after-school availability, the department will be open late on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Aiden and Allison will ensure that no one is ever staffed alone in the building.
 - Prevention Coordinator Position – still vacant. Position has been extended and boosted on various sites. Filling the position has been a challenge. Salary is competitive for a 4-day work week and includes benefits and paid training opportunities. One hopeful interview is set for Thursday.

- Recruitment of Youth for Board
 - The advisory board will serve both Youth Services and Somers Comes Together.
 - Reviewed 3 documents:
 - Somers Youth Leadership Council Overview
 - “Join” marketing piece
 - Nomination Form (note: student can self-nominate)
 - Board will meet weekly and will be led by Aiden and the Prevention Coordinator.
 - 12-15 students (7th grade +) will be accepted. Selection will include an interview.
 - SADD is not active this year. Flyers will be sent to prior SADD participants.
 - Funding from the Drug Free Community Grant exists to offer members many growth opportunities including travel to a conference in DC.
 - In line with the DFC funding, a survey of all students (7th – 12th) will be conducted on January 11th and will be facilitated by an experienced consulting firm. All students will be surveyed at the same time to enhance the validity of the data collected.

- Youth Mentorship Program
 - A mentorship program will be piloted in the middle school.
 - Aiden is working with the Governors Prevention Partnership (Hartford) who provides technical assistance to train mentors.
 - Reaching out to universities for mentors. So far, reached out to Asnuntuck and Elms. Also reaching out to UCONN.
 - Mentors will meet weekly for 30 minutes with a student during lunch. Commitment of 30 minutes per week. Will be provided with training and tools.
 - Current capacity is 18 students. (2 days/week, 3 lunches/day x 3 students/ lunch).
 - Aiden will be on-site to greet and coordinate at the middle school.

- Working with Asst. Principal on procedures like (mandatory reporting, lockdown procedures, etc.).
- 1 optional full group meeting will be planned each month.
- Identifying students is expected to be easy. The need is great.

- Juvenile Review Board
 - Aiden has begun working successfully under the Memorandum of Understanding with Somers, Ellington and Stafford. Craig and Aiden have been working through some of the kinks of the new system and appropriately moving information/ documents around.
 - Youth moving through the JRB system are receiving an enhanced level of follow up support for the first time.
 - JRB is moving from Ellington to Kibby Fuller in Somers.

- Other Business
 - Drug Take Back successfully collected 71 lbs of pills and 7 ½ lbs of liquids.
 - For future consideration – Use DFC grant funding for parent education.
 - Middle school vaping education to be held November 30th.

Motion to adjourn by Ed DePeau, seconded by Colleen Meier. Meeting adjourned at 5:25.