



Somers Youth Services Advisory Board

Minutes

November 8, 2023 -- 4:30pm

619 Main Street

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Matthew Cox at 5:01

Members Present: Matthew Cox, Cadence Bidwell, Colleen Meier, Renata Bowers, Brian Langan, Ed DePeau

Absent: Craig Jones, Joe Radziewicz, Aiden Matthews

DCF Funding was approved. DFC funding has been received.

Girls On the Run is a successful program, meeting twice a week.

Safe Sitter is a training program that includes CPR, to prepare youth for babysitting safely and other home-alone tips and strategies around safety.

CPR certification class for youth in town took place a few weeks ago with 15 local youth successfully completing the training.

Teen Center. Looking to utilize the Somers Public Library to turn the teen room into a new Teen Center. Idea has been presented to the Hartford Foundation; waiting to hear back.

Drug Free Communities – ready for our Coalition to graduate in January.

- Interviewing for new Coordinator
- Youth Leadership Council going well
- Operation Parent Handbooks are going to all middle school and 9th grade households, via mail. Parents are being asked to respond to a survey to determine success of program and contents of handbooks.
- Adult Community Survey is being delivered via postcard to every household in Somers, to gain greater understanding of perceptions within the community about trends in and perceptions about underage substance use, mental health, etc.

Looking for input regarding regularity and day/time for Advisory Board meetings. Craig suggested meeting once every two months; Matthew agreed this could work well. Matthew would prefer more Advisory member input with regards to what things to discuss/pursue for the youth of our town.

Holiday Toy Drive is happening again this year. Stuff a Cruiser will take place starting the week of Thanksgiving. The Story Barn will also be a drop off spot in conjunction with their December 9th event.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Renata Bowers

