YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

Agenda

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

Location: Town Hall, large conference room, 4pm

1. Call to Order: A quarterly meeting of the East Granby Juvenile Review Board (JRB) was held Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at the East Granby Town Hall. Chairman Art Reardon called the meeting to order at 4:09pm. Members present were Elise Cosker, Sara Kleinman, Josette Lumbruno, Joanna Taczanowsky, Ofc. Scott Menard, Justine Ginsgerg, Patrick Gustafson, Ashley Alexander, Nicole Sokolowski and also Alisa Ruggiero and Case Manager Bonnie Jones.

2. Correspondence: None

3. Approval of Minutes: Sara made a motion to approve minutes for 9/24/24 meeting, Scott seconded, all approved.

4. Member Business
    a. Additions and resignations - Welcomed new members Ashley Alexander and Alise Ruggiero (officially in 2 weeks), admin changes will be made to bylaws to accommodate, now full membership. Sara will retain her position as board member but will no longer serve as Vice Chair. The position will be filled in the future.
    b. Term Appointment Period - State guidance is 2 year terms, please let Alicia know 6 months ahead if you plan to resign to allow position to be filled.
    c. Confidentiality Agreement - Everyone has signed, new waivers will be collected as needed.

5. Collective Business
    a. Virtual Hearing Policy - No policy currently, need to make a motion and approve, then East Granby Youth Services Bureau (YSB) can approve, then policy can be put into place.

Discussion on in-person advantages: confidentiality for families and board members, schedule currently enables easy coordination with board and families, instills seriousness in same way in-person court does, exceptions could be made if/when they arise. Discussion on disadvantages: physical/medical challenges, parent/caregiver out of state but should participate. Ashley made motion to require in-person attendance of juvenile and appropriate adult representation/parent at hearing. Sara seconded and motion passed.

b. MOU between JRB and BOE - YSB asked to begin conversation to adhere to state recommendations to have an MOU between BOE/YSB/JRB to allow the school to share information about academic performance etc. of juvenile with JRB, when appropriate. Justine shared Farmington JRB includes academic dean, probation officer and Farmington SRO at hearings and this allows academic dean to share information with JRB. Scorr shared East Granby JRB falls under Manchester office for probation officer assignments, if schedule was shared an officer could be present at hearings, could indicate seriousness of hearing as well as provide additional family support, volunteer resources. A DCF report would not be automatic due to officer's presence. Scott clarified the East Granby Police dept has MOU with BOE by position. All agreed sample MOU provided was appropriate, will be shared with BOE attorney/other appropriate parties, Alicia will update.
c. Hearing Schedule - Hearing schedule is staffed, if email is not received a week prior to scheduled hearing then hearing is canceled.

6. 2024 Year in Review - Scott summarized the year has gone well, will work with Christine Gallagher to update membership/term appointments where necessary. This year members have worked well together at hearings, our YSB and JRB align with state recommendations in most ways, will continue to meet or exceed state standards. We will work on list of restorative services and share with members, continue to add to it. The flyer for schools has been/will be updated, YSB will print and share with schools. Scott reflected that changes to designated hearing date/time are helpful. Shared that over the summer was present at a car accident where grade school children were upset, later the teacher of one shared the child wrote a

story about their summer and shared they were reassured during that upsetting time because they knew Ofc. Menard and he was a comfort. This reinforces the goal of connecting students to caring adults/resources. Patrick shared positive results from students previously seen by JRB, has had many meetings with Scott or others throughout the year to troubleshoot smaller issues, manage them proactively. Shared that the father of juvenile seen by JRB reached out proactively asking to check in with student. Many instances of family buy-in to JRB, goals of program being met. Scott shared that parents are similarly checking in with students prior to issues, previously they had not been and issues necessitated JRB. Justin shared Farmington Valley Health District 'Not on Tobacco' vaping/marajauna program received a 3-year, $200k grant to extend the program to schools, 10 towns have successfully received. Farmington JRB does all it can to have parents of juveniles complete the Youth Mental Health program to better equip them for the future. Joanna shared she, Elise and Ashley attended the CYSA online course, noted many/most JRBs changed/are changing their name to "Youth Diversion Program" or "Youth Diversion Team" as "Juvenile" can have negative connotation for youth and families in connection rather than positive connotation of "accountability", an idea to set the stage for youth and families to be vulnerable/share in an unfamiliar space is have everyone present answer the same question (ex: When people first meet you, what do you think they see? What do you wish they would see? or What's one value that's important for you to see in our space today? or What's one word that someone you love would use to describe you? or What's one of your strengths, and what is something you would like to improve on? or When you're first getting to know someone, what helps with building trust?) as well as circular seating, which we do. Examples of restorative actions were shared, only new to us were 'Coaching/mentoring youth sports' (in addition to other Parks & Rec programs) and 'Intentional time spent together as a family' which may be difficult to mandate but could be a good suggestion, increase juvenile or adult participation if requested by JRB. Alisa shared intentions to make training on implicit bias and restorative justice available to JRB members. Bonnie shared it would be helpful for YSB to present offerings to all school personnel to inform new personnel and remind others. Possibly during 2 days of convocation. All agreed, would help with goals of evolving JRB and continuing to inform community. Justine shared 100% of Granby middle/high school personnel trained in youth mental heath first aid, would be great to train JRB in that. In Granby, Justine was embedded in grade 12 heath class for a week, educated all students, results showed more students visiting counselors by of the week, especially those who had not

visited prior, and also feedback that students were now helping each other. YSB could be trained as trainers, course is 6.5 hours in one day or split for 2 days.

7. Adjournment: Art made a motion to adjourn and Scott seconded, all in favor and adjourned at 4:50pm.

Next meeting is April 1, 2025 at 4pm at East Granby Town Hall