

**MEETING MINUTES
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021
6:30 P.M., EAST GRANBY TOWN HALL**

**Members Present: Josette Lumbruno, Erin Russell, Jonathan Ciottone, Angela Ciottone.
Staff Present: Mason Williams, Alicia Van Neil, Bonnie Jones. Members of the Public:
First Selectman Jim Hayden.**

1. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None.
3. Correspondence – 5/24/21 emails from staff
4. Review of Minutes – Josette motioned to accept the April 19, 2021 minutes, seconded by Erin. Unanimously approved.
5. Additions To Agenda - None
6. Old Business
 - Planning YAC Years End Event Update – Alicia reported that the MS YAC had an ice cream party to celebrate year end, and the HS YAC had a pizza party.
 - Meditation Program Update – Josette plans a free Town Mediation Day for sometime this fall. A non-perishable food item will be requested for donation to the food pantry. Date and time TBD.
 - Programming Research – Josette presented her research on programming that surrounding towns were offering. Many good ideas were presented including programs directed to advocating for yourself, leadership skill building, interviewing skills, getting familiar with government process, amongst many other programming ideas which she provided in a handout form. Jonathan felt a parenting cyber safety program specifically targeted to adults would be beneficial to the community so that they could learn how to monitor their children’s online activity. Both Jonathan and

Erin offered to participate with cyber safety programs targeted to children to explain what they've learned from personal experience with safety issues on line. Alicia indicated that the Peace at Home program may be a program available to us, and she will follow up with the facilitator. Mason agreed to bring 3-6 programs that we plan to offer this next fiscal year to the next meeting that were discussed.

7. New Business

- Programming Pursuant to C.G.S. 10-19m – Angela reviewed the governing statute with the group which provides: “A youth service bureau shall be the coordinating unit of the community-based services to provide comprehensive delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment and follow up services,” C.G.S. 10-19m(a) and “[s]uch services shall be designed to meet the needs of youths by the diversion of troubled youths from the justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all youths to function as responsible members of their communities” C.G.S. 10-19m(b). Angela provided some examples of suggested community programming by the CYSA including work/employment placement, parent and family training, positive youth programs, prevention programs, and individual group counseling, etc. Sue Lawshe is presently providing counseling. Alicia confirmed that we would need to include prevention programming this year.
- JRB Update – Angela shared that the JRB has met, and requested revisions to the JRB Statement of Purpose and the Establishment Documents to decrease the board membership from 11 to 8. There also needed to be provision for the YSB Supervisor to act as a case manager. Language to make those changes was set forth for the proposed amendments.

Action Items – Amendment to Statement of Purpose JRB (5/5/15) and Establishment of JRB (2/16/15) - Josette motioned to accept the amendments, Seconded by Erin.

Unanimously approved.

- 2021 Transition from Granby – Alicia reported that the transition is complete and effective 7/1/21.
- Surveys YAC and Contact Lists for 2020-2021 – Alicia agreed to keep a list of YAC member and parent contact lists to be shared with the Commission. To improve the program on a continuing basis, surveys questions were agreed upon by the Commission and staff, and Alicia will send the surveys out electronically and share the results with the Commission.
- Discussion pursuant to Resolution (10/19/20) – Angela clarified that the Resolution provided for staff to request changes to criteria, rules or procedures which was placed on the agenda for discussion. Angela noted that the subcommittee decision on applications had been made based upon the number of slots available and projections for HS YAC as had been done in prior years. Decrease in accepted applications for 6th grade were based upon projections of 23 students for the HS YAC if everyone was accepted, which was too large, and the criteria looked at included leadership potential, ideas for relevant programming, and prior volunteer work to ensure participation. Angela suggested that staff provide an explanation, to any parent seeking one, that they had made a mistake in indicating everyone who applied would be accepted. No solution as how to limit the number of students moving up and onto to the HS YAC was offered.

- Bonnie raised a request for change pursuant to the Resolution which included providing feedback to youth in the future who were not accepted in the form of each subcommittee member completing their own rubric to be provided to students/parents. In terms of each subcommittee member providing their own rubric, that idea was not workable as the subcommittee discussed and decided upon applicants as a group, not individually, and would open subcommittee members up to unnecessary issues. Jonathan and Josette agreed, however, that going forward, for growth of the applicants, that were not accepted, maybe we should provide some feedback in the form of a written comment. The Resolution is silent on this issue. We agreed that the subcommittee could provide comment to those students not accepted going forward with potential areas to work on with possible referral to other leadership opportunities in Town or through the school. Josette requested that Alicia provide the Commission with other possible referral programs in town and at the school. The Commission agreed that we could accommodate Bonnie's request for providing feedback to applicants not accepted in the form of a written comment which would be submitted to Alicia to be included in the outgoing letter to applicants not accepted. Bonnie also raised the issue of wanting to interview incoming 6th graders to get to know them, which the Commission already addressed in the Resolution previously, as we felt the application was sufficient for a volunteer position. No new reasoning was presented for any change to the Resolution regarding no interview requirement for applicants.

Mason raised an issue of non-participation of some of his HS YAC members which burdened the rest of the group in terms of meeting and planning. These particular

students were prioritizing sports over the HS YAC, according to Mason. Erin added that she had witnessed this as well. Angela reminded Mason that the Commission needed to be alerted to the non-participation of student(s) per the Resolution so that we could ensure this type of situation was addressed in Executive Session by a meeting of a subcommittee. However, this was the first we were hearing of it. Angela also mentioned that she was aware the date and time of the meeting agreed upon at the start of the year was frequently changing and that every effort should be made to keep the meeting date and time constant. Josette added that students on the HS YAC who were not prioritizing meeting attendance should probably find a different activity to open up the spots for others willing to participate fully. The Commission agreed and will table this issue to be addressed with the future HS YAC counsel facilitator. Alicia noted that there are some late applications for the HS YAC which she will email to the subcommittee.

8. Promotion

- Talk Turkey – Alicia indicated that programming decided upon at the next meeting would be placed in the August issue of Talk Turkey.
- Upcoming Events and Status of Brochures – Mason provided an updated brochure for review. We will add Home Alone to the top list and remove the WOW program. Alicia will reach out to the facilitator of the Love and Logic programs to see whether we can continue that. Otherwise, that also should be removed. Mason will add a sentence to the Juvenile Review Board section that “The JRB will accept referrals for Families With Service Needs” and correct any minor spelling issues.

9. Membership – There is one vacancy and Alicia in discussion with a potential member.

10. Public Comment – First Selectman Jim Hayden commented that he felt all students should be accepted to the YAC prior to leaving the meeting early due to a conflict. He indicated that there had been a mistake whereby staff verbally told some parents all incoming 6th graders would be accepted.

11. Adjournment – Josette motioned to adjourn, seconded by Erin. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Ciottone, Chair