

**YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT**

MINUTES

March 20, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the East Granby Youth Services Commission was held Monday, March 20, 2023, at the East Granby Community Center. Chairman Bob Ravens-Seger called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present were Vice Chairman Josette Lumbruno, Sara Kleinman, and Art Reardon; student members Mia Hines and Evan Hanks; YAC Facilitators AnaAlicia Cruz, and Bonnie Jones; and Program Director Alicia Van Neil.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion was made by A. Reardon and seconded by J. Lumbruno to accept the minutes from the February 27, 2023, meeting, as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Programming

A Van Neil stated that Mental Health First Aid Course is this Saturday, 3/25. QPR Training is 3/28. A Van Veil and S. Kleinman are finalizing two programs: "The Difficult Conversations" and "How To Talk to Your Kids About Sex and Gender Identity". The two dates will be in April. Love and Logic "Special Needs" dates are being finalized April/May.

B. Prevention

A Van Neil stated that the Jordan Porco Foundation table is going well- it did not happen last week at the high school because of the snow day, but will be at the Middle School this week and the High School next week.

C. YAC Update

B Jones stated that the Great Skate event was yesterday, 3/19. \$89 was raised to support the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, about 70 people attended. The third lesson on "Coping Strategies" will be presented at Seymour School this month. E. Hanks presented information about the lessons at Seymour School at the BOE meeting last week. A date is being set-up to volunteer at an animal shelter and deliver the donated pet supplies. Youths will also be stuffing eggs tomorrow, as well as helping at the Easter Egg Hunt on 4/1.

A Cruz stated that the high school YAC is looking at what activities high school students would participate in, so they created a survey that will take place next Tuesday at the Jordan Porco Foundation table during both lunch waves. They are also planning Sports Day with the Middle School. The 8th graders will start the transition to the High School YAC by joining the High School meetings. Hansika's Health group has not met yet.

D. JRB Update

B. Jones stated that the JRB met last week, and verbiage was added to the JRB documents to include the families with service needs portion (ex.: parent referrals or truancy related referrals). This same verbiage was added to the state JRB in July of 2020 as part of the local JRB's responsibility. More forms are also being adopted from the CYSA (CT Youth Service Association) and added online so parents can access referral forms. There are vacancies on the JRB, and B. Jones has contacted a social worker in Suffield that Scott Menard recommended who has worked with the police before. The next steps are to update the website and to add more people. B. Jones hopes the JRB will meet quarterly unless there is a referral. J. Lumbruno suggested to put a summary of the JRB process in "Let's Talk Turkey" to inform parents about how and when they should make direct referrals.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Interval House Information

A Van Neil spoke with Emily at the Interval House about getting information to the schools about who they are and what services they have available. They run a domestic violence shelter for women and children, and their services are available to anyone from East Granby. They have a 24/7 hotline, advocates in the Hartford and Manchester court systems to help with paperwork; they can also assist with resources, shelters, and services. Holding support groups in person will begin again in April. They have a community educator that does programs on healthy relationships and how to have conversations with youth and adults if someone has a friend they are concerned about.

B. "Let's Talk Turkey"

A Van Neil reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Youth Services Commission have a separate "Let's Talk Turkey" issue to report on their spring and summer programs and happenings. The town has covered the cost of this edition for the last two years or so but has now decided the cost should be covered by the two commissions. A discussion will be held with E. Wimpfheimer about this \$3300 cost since it was not budgeted for this year, and to plan for next year's budget. The cost would be split between the two budgets appropriately.

C. Veloci Platform

DCFS is requiring all the youth services groups that report to them to go online with all grant reporting by July 2023. Becky Hayes and A Van Neil have been going to info sessions with Veoci- a company that provides a platform for online services for a minimal fee. This platform will make all reporting and statistic keeping easier and will give East Granby the ability to have long-term data collection for analyzation. Individual demographic forms will also be able to be inputted directly online. This platform will also eventually allow East Granby to compare info with other towns.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by J. Lumbruno and seconded by E. Hanks to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Kovaleski
Youth Services Commission Clerk