

**Youth Advisory Board Minutes  
December 10, 2015**

**Members present were: Barbara Ruhe, Ken Lesser, Eric Knapp, Maria Alfonso, Jeanine Berasi , Ryan Berasi, Rachel Bahouth, and Chris Healy. Also present were: Hannah Granfield- presenter from the Governor’s Prevention Partnership , Anthony Spinella – Town Council Liason, Rachael Sunny-Youth Development Manager, Erica Teixeira-Assistant Director of Social and Youth Services, Katie Mezick-Social and Youth Services Intern, and Kathy Bagley-Director of Social and Youth Services.**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Acting Chairperson Ryan Berasi .**

**Approval of November 5th 2015 Minutes:**

- Ken Lesser made a motion to accept the minutes and Maria Alfonso seconded. All approved.

**Financial Report:**

- The account balance is \$7,043.02.

**Youth Services Report:**

- Friday Night Hang Out
  - Wrapping up both 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade this month for the fall. 6<sup>th</sup> grade had over 150 youth registered and 7<sup>th</sup> grade had about 50 youth registered. A possibility is to have a combined group for both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in upcoming sessions.
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads)
  - Fall session is wrapping up. Youth services will offer some new selections in the upcoming sessions.
- Intramurals at the Middle School
  - Fall intramurals have come to an end and will start again in the winter and spring of 2016. Looking to slightly change the sign up option/method for youth but will keep it to 80 youth that are able to registered.
- Police and Youth Grant- Held a Thanksgiving Food Drive that was extremely successful. Both officers and youth participated in a friendly flag football tailgate and game.
- Juvenile Review Board is staying very active with cases.
- Youth Services will be conducting a Needs Assessment with grades 7-12 in the spring of 2016. The CASAC grant will financially sponsor the survey.
- The state continues to discuss cuts to the Youth Service Bureaus. The group was encouraged to contact representatives.

**Old Business:**

- **Hunger Action Team – update**
  - Erica Texeira/Ken Lesser gave an update - The second Hunger Action Team Meeting was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and was attended by over 20 community members. Everyone felt the first and second meetings were successful and the third meeting I set for December 13<sup>th</sup>.

- **Mentoring Program**

- Hannah Granfield- presented from the Governor's Prevention Partnership (GPP). Hannah provided a lot of information regarding the GPP role in getting a mentor program started, as well as, what is expected and needed for a successful mentoring program. Hannah elaborated on how the planning process should at least be a year prior to any implementation. The GPP offers 50hrs of free support during the planning process. Some of the main points the group focused on regarding gathering more data are: Liability, mission, evaluation process, sub-committee needed, recruitment, mentors and mentees screening process, funding, and staff time. The group will continue the discussion and learning process. The plan is to move forward with a sub-committee that would potentially start meeting in January.

**New Business:**

- **Youth Advisory Board Vacancies**

- The board has vacant slots and looking to fill them. Members discussed ideas regarding recruitment. Ryan Berasi (Wethersfield middle school youth) continues to show interest in joining as well has Pam Harrison (Wethersfield Resident, and High School Psychologist). Maria Alfonso mentioned she can look into the process of filling the vacancies. The group will continue to try and reach Michael Scavetta regarding attending YAB meetings.

- **Sub-committee to plan annual recognition event/YAB IT scholarship-** The board supported the idea of a sub-committee and will bring suggestions and interest to the next meeting. The event will be held on Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – Community Center. The group agreed to break into a sub-committee at our next YAB meeting and start planning.

- **Sub-committee to fundraise for camp scholarships –** Social and Youth Services offers help with camps to families that are in need. Each youth that qualifies can receive up to \$200 for one camp session. Currently the donated fund is extremely low. The board continues to support the idea of the sub-committee. The group agreed to break into a sub-committee at our next YAB meeting and start planning.

At 8:25pm Chris Healy made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Kenny Lesser.

Next meeting is January 7th, 2016, at 7:00 PM Town Hall, Lower Level, and Conference Room #1.

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Teixeira