

Youth Advisory Board Minutes  
March 3, 2011

Present: Barbara Ruhe, Mary Ellen Gregorio, Gretchen Schultz, Victoria Borkowski, Joe Bruno, Mike Hurley (Council Liaison), Nancy Stilwell (Staff)

Guest: Wende Cooper - CASAC

Absent: Patti Tiberio, Mike Verderame, Deb Hammer, Junito Mendez

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

An update of membership was provided. Wendi Johnson will be joining the committee but was unable to attend this meeting. New members are still needed - especially from the schools. Barbara Ruhe will contact the Superintendent to try to get representation.

Nancy Stilwell gave an update on Youth Services:

The Department is being re-organized. Lori Schroll, the Department Analyst has been moved to Engineering. Brenda Moore, Technical Assistant will be the full time support staff. Some Youth Service activities may be shared with Park and Rec. The effort to revive ROPE or a scaled down version will be discontinued. The Summer Youth Employment Program is under consideration.

Community of Concern is holding two events this spring. Joyce Walters, Health Director at Wesleyan University will present a program for parents at 7:00 pm on April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Town Council chambers. Two presentations of "I am Dirt" will be performed at WHS on May 17<sup>th</sup> (time TBA) .

Plans for Volunteer Recognition Night were discussed. Nancy will talk to a possible keynote speaker and if that person is not available, Barbara will pursue other possibilities. Postcards should be ready to mail at the next meeting. Forms have gone out to all the schools with responses requested back to Social and Youth Services by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Wende Cooper from CASAC gave an update and provided material on the current use of synthetic marijuana (K2, Spice etc) and the use of Salvia. Student members of the group shared their perception of what is going on – alcohol and marijuana remain the two most used substances. All agreed that prescription drug abuse is a serious and growing problem.

Discussion was held about possible programs for parents next year. Targeting parents of elementary students seems to make the most sense and may attract more parents. More coordination with Community of Concern would enhance what could be achieved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Stilwell, Ph.D.

Director, Social and Youth Services