

Needham Youth Services

Youth Commission Meeting Notes

9/13/2017

Materials Distributed (both prior to or/and at the meeting): Agenda; Minutes of 6/14/2017; September Department Report; Fall Brochure, Teen Dating Violence Report, Project Van flyer, Babysitting flyer, Photo albums from both Extreme Looks and Project VAN

- **Accepted Minutes of 6/14/2017**

- **Welcome New Board Member Shayan and Karen Mullen**

Welcomed Shayan as he begins his two-year term on the Board and Karen Mullen as she begins her term.

- **Program Focus**

Reviewed Summer Programs/Preview of Fall Programs

Updates given:

VIP, Peer Tutor, Reach Out Day, Babysitting, Ray of Hope and the Forde Award

- **Clinical Focus**

Discussed the differences in Mental Health Disciplines

Updates given:

Attended Simmons Field Orientation in August and we welcomed Caitlin White, graduate clinical intern, last week.

Staff members are attending the training “Shifting the Narrative: Helping Adolescents Recover from traumatic Grief and Suicide Loss in October with other HHS staff

Internship Collaborative is scheduled for the year...beginning 9/29 - 5/4

We have already been contacted by Hillside and Broadmeadow to offer groups in the schools

- **Community Focus**

Discussed the division’s response to the recent death of a former NHS student.

- **Matters Related to the Hiring of a new Director**

After staff members were excused, the Director of Health & Human Services Timothy McDonald led a discussion with the Youth Commission members about the search process for a new Director of Youth & Family Services. Mr. McDonald described the process and the involvement of a broad array of stakeholders over an approximately four month period which included job description review and job posting development, application reviews, first round interviews, and second round interviews. The process involved the participation of Youth & Family Services Division staff members, other Health & Human Services Department staff and managers, managers from other Needham departments, school administrators, the Superintendent, the Town Manager, and Youth Commission members. Feedback about the characteristics needed in a new good Director was sought from an even broader group of stakeholders, and that feedback was gathered by email, through phone calls, and during in-person meetings. The three Youth Commission members who participated in the search process also spoke at length about their involvement and their perspectives on the candidates. The full membership and Mr. McDonald continued to discuss the strengths of the candidates in great detail over more than two hours. The meeting ended without a clear consensus on the strongest candidate to become the new Director.

- **Old/New Business:**
- **Adjourn**

Members Present:	Julie Stevens, Jack Cruickshank, Kevin Keane, Susan Patkin, David Bookston, Karen Mullen, Shayan Raza and Vin Springer
Division Staff Present:	Katy Colthart, Carolyn Tracey, Maria Papantoniou and Ben Aronson
HHS Staff Present:	Timothy McDonald
Notes By:	Katy Colthart & Timothy McDonald