

Needham Youth & Family Services

Notes from January 9, 2019 Board Meeting

Meeting Commenced at 5:00 pm, Highland Room, Needham Town Hall

Board in Attendance: Julie Stevens, David Bookston, Kevin Keane, Karen Mullen, Adrienne Anderson, Annie Stein, Susan Patkin and Shayan Raza

Director: Ms. Sara Shine

Motion to Approve December 12 minutes Made by David, Seconded by Susan.
Unanimous approval of December 12 minutes.

Review of Cost-Benefit Analysis of Mental Health Service Billing Memo to Finance Committee

Board members noted that they were impressed by Ms. Shine's report. They appreciated the footnotes on the clear advantages and disadvantages of billing insurance for services that Ms. Shine prepared in conjunction with Mr. Timothy McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services. It was noted that both billing and collections requires staffing which does not currently exist. Some crisis referrals were discussed in the context of the billing and collections argument. Karen brought up and the Board agreed that access to the many Youth Department services disappears for many if insurance is required. There was also a discussion of copayment requirements and limitations on mental health visits while Mass Health recipients receive mental health visits for free.

Youth and Family Services Board Goals Discussion

The goals are over a five year period.

- Offering a range of supportive services that can support youth and families through a variety of innovative programs.
- Ensuring all Needham residents have access to these services by eliminating all barriers to treatment.
- Promote resilience and facilitate recovery in youth, families and communities impacted by traumatic events.

David brought up and the Board agreed that they nicely reflect the strengths of the department. The flexibility within the department to respond to various crises and the historical strength of the department in both clinical and programmatic work was discussed.

David made a motion to vote on the goals; Kevin seconded. Unanimous vote to approve the motion to vote.

David made a motion to approve the goals as written. Annie seconded the motion. Unanimous approval by the Board to approve the three goals.

Programmatic Update

Ms. Shine is working with Ms. Catherine Delano in Health to start a chapter of 84—this is state wide anti-smoking group started in 1984 entitled 84 as that was the percentage of youth then who did not smoke. With vaping at epidemic levels there was a general discussion of the coolness of vaping and the fact that 70% of youth in the most recent Metrowest survey said they vaped. Several Board members noted that parents do not believe their kids are vaping.

Julie mentioned planning a parental vaping educational workshop modeled on the film “Hidden in Plain Sight.” Ms. Shine asked Shayan and Annie to inquire among their friends at the high school and find five volunteers who could be hosted at Youth to participate in the mini-grants for studying the issue. Karen mentioned she has contacts at the high school and would also inquire for volunteers.

Forde Award Update

The award ceremony is January 28 at 5:30 pm. The Needham High School Robotics Club has won the award this year. Ms. Shine thanked the Board members who assisted with the application review.

Join the Conversation Gender Equity Meeting at the High School had forty five attendees and a spirited discussion was reviewed.

Motion to Adjourn 5:55 pm made by David, Seconded by Susan. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 5:55

Notes by Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary