

Needham Youth & Family Services

Notes from May 8, Board Meeting

Meeting Commenced at 5:36 pm, May Chapel Room, Needham Town Hall

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

Director: Ms. Sara Shine

Motion to Approve April 10 Minutes made by Shayan, seconded by Susan. Unanimous approval of April 10 minutes.

Ms. Shine presented Update on Program and Services

The “Mask you Live In” documentary screening had to be canceled due to a technology failure. 40-50 people were in attendance but the discussion was good and panelists were insightful. Panel was led by Ben Aronson. There may be an email link to the film at a future date. The department will also examine a fall 2019 screening linked to a social media campaign.

A single parent workshop is in the works.

Junior Police Academy will for the first time be run with Ms. Adrienne Anderson.

The Wilderness program is focused on a specific population with 5 to 8 students those with social anxiety and general anxiety and we are partnering with Pollard to register the targeted group. The curriculum includes first aide/introduction led by a physician, two long hikes, kayaking and a ropes course at Hale Reservation. It will run five Fridays.

We have a new partnership with Pollard/Ms. Bibbo as a part of a team to create a transition program to assist students with behavioral issues or those who have hospitalized to transition back to the school. The high school has such a program but there was a need at Pollard this year. By designing the program now it will be ready for the 2019-2020 school year. Youth will provide the ongoing clinical support to this new program.

Julie asked about the middle school parenting workshop during parent’s night –this was not well attended; this will need to be rethought as it was not advertised and parents were not asked to register in advance. Board members suggested future parenting workshops on the topics of the stigma on divorce and sexual assault.

The Senior Awards ceremony last week went well; Keith Forde spoke and that was a success.

Intergenerational programs at the CATH have went well; there is ongoing discussion to expand to all the elementary schools next year.

The senior prom with the COA is upcoming.

Community Collaborations

Youth is developing a document on best practices to prevent vaping. Youth is trying to partner with school nurses. Metrowest as a community is pushing forward and Needham so far is the only community who has banned all flavor sales including menthol.

Susan asked if Ms. Shine could find out % of colleges who are smoke and vaping free. This will be looked into.

Ms. Shine noted that nicotine patch and Chantix are not allowed for minors which is an issue with smoking cessation. Ms. Shine will also find out if the school nurses are providing vaping education in the schools.

Ms. Shine noted the summer brochure is out with a new format/template. The format will put the clinical issues on the inside cover as a permanent highlight of department services.

Youth will have two interns next year for the first time—an expressive art therapist from Lesley and the other from BU.

Youth will have a table at the June spring fair.

The high school graphic design club is working on a logo redesign which should be ready by the end of the school year which is very exciting! Kristin, the administrative assistant had seen a logo design in Westwood; thus the idea came from within the staff.

Shayan will be attending U-Mass Amherst in the fall; the new Board member will likely be Joshua Tuttleman.

A brief general discussion occurred about active shooting and fire drills at the high school.

Motion to Adjourn at 6:25 pm made by Shayan, Seconded by Annie. **Unanimous decision to adjourn.**

Notes by Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary