

Commission for Children and Youth

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24th 2020, 5:30 pm
Weston Town Hall Meeting Room

Commissioners Present

Shara Kolodney, Chair
Bridget Angus
Jane Hoeffner
Hilary Misiano
Knox Watson
Denese Marshall

Commissioners Absent

Michele Tivey
Michelle Albright
Denise Harvey

Other Attendees

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Director
Emma Spaulding, WHS Student At-Large Representative

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Kolodney called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

Motion: Bridget Knox made a *Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular January Meeting was duly made and seconded by Shara Kolodney. Minutes approved unanimously.*

3. Reports as needed:

- Social Services update: Allison Lisbon is not able to attend. Laura Cleary reported that Allison Lisbon and the Middle and High School social workers are attending a suicide postvention training at the HUB in Norwalk.
- Weston Youth Services Update from Laura Cleary:
 - It's difficult to get attendance at parent programs so Laura is looking to create a parent education subcommittee to discuss/plan. Hilary, Jane and Denese volunteered. Laura will set a date with them for a parent education subcommittee meeting and then send it to the group.
 - JRB update: We have 6 JRB cases so far this year. We'll re-evaluate the contract with Norwalk in May or June for next year. Norwalk does a great job and offers services to Weston families.

- Focused parent programs on anxiety and Positive Discipline have been the most well attended.
- March 1st video gaming addiction speaker at UU Church in Westport. Laura asked that if anyone attends to please let her know how it was. Jane Hoeffner and Hilary Misiano may be able to attend.
- Laura attended a program at Grace Farms in New Canaan last week about Living a fulfilling Life- is college the answer. Laura is going to talk to Karen Tatarka at the library about the idea of doing some type of similar forum/discussion in Weston possibly together with the Weston Public Library.
- Student update:
 - Knox Watson: continues to do a practice run on the volunteer hours recording program.
 - Knox Watson: Weston Against Cancer: They are preparing to apply for a youth mini grant application. They will be happy to advertise us as a supporter. Shara mentioned that the Weston Progress Fund might be a possible funder as well.
 - Knox Watson and Bridget Angus: Young Progressives have a high school voter registration for seniors in Spring; possibly using Trojan time (advisory period) to inform students about voter registration.
 - Bridget Angus: WHS Student Government holds this event every spring: Food, Friends and Funk: Tuesday April 7th- Colony Pizza and high school bands. The pizza truck brings people to the event. WYS usually gives the Student Government funds to help with the event. This event brings the high school together in a fun way; it's a favorite event.
 - Bridget Angus: School Climate survey: There is a WHS group of students and staff planning group to determine how to move forward with actions based on results of school climate plan.
- Laura: Next WYS program is Wed March 4th, Kindness Matters at the Weston Field Club. We have low registration so hoping that picks up this week.
- Charlene: Charlene is not able to attend today. Laura Cleary reports Winter WOW! Programs going well; summer catalog is out. Spring registration starts mid- March.
- Coalition report: no coalition meeting this month: next Coalition meeting March 9th.
- NAMI: Jane Hoefner is exploring the idea of a town wide reading related to mental health. She has some book ideas: Everything Here is Beautiful (novel) , Don't Call Me Crazy, The Compassionate Achiever (Chris Kukk, a WCSU professor). All agreed it is a good idea to connect with the library. Laura Cleary will also mention the idea to Karen Tatarka.
- WHS: Hilary Misiano emailed Lisa Deorio re: DBT posters, and Lisa said she would check with health teachers re: what they want for posters.

4. **ADL Program:** Shara Kolodney said the World of Difference workshop planning group met today: Program will be Sunday 3/29 3:30-6:30PM. Working on finalizing invitation. Next planning meeting 3/9/2020.
5. Family Dinner Project: Denese: We're working on a family dinner project with ADAP and PTO. Idea is to combine a community family dinner event and then follow-up social media family dinner challenge to support and promote the value of family dinners to well-being of youth and families. Shara Kolodney suggested - could family dinner idea connect with community service opportunity like Gillespie Center.
6. New Subcommittee: Parent Programs
See above.
7. Member Roundtable
No further discussion.
8. Subcommittee Update
9. New ideas/discussion
No other matters raised.
10. For the good of the order
No other matters raised.
11. Adjourn
Shara Kolodney made a motion to adjourn the meeting was made and Jane Hoefner seconded at 6:35 PM. Unanimous.

Next Meeting is Monday, March 16th, 5:30-6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Directo