**Commission for Children and Youth**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, April 19, 2021. 5:30 pm**

**Via Zoom**

Commissioners Present

Shara Kolodney

Hilary Misiano

Gillian Donovan

Denise Harvey

Jane Hoeffner

Emma Spaulding

Knox Watson

Commissioner Absent

Denese Marshall

Michele Tivey

Other Attendees

Laura Cleary, Youth Services Director

Charlene Monn, Youth Services Program Coordinator

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order 5:32 pm
2. Approval of February minutes: D. Harvey made a motion to approve March minutes; unanimously approved.
3. Reports:

* WOW Spring : (C Monn). 5 virtual programs running, Spring historically has less programs than Fall and Winter. Summer camp registration started; combination of in-person and virtual camps being offered. Will be held at WPS, exact space unkown. SPARK business academy will offer summer programs for teens, a new thing for WOW. WYS does summer registration for WPS, collecting fees. WPS District is offering Summer Academy for 1-8 grade, math and reading. Also Music and Theater programs through Liz Morris, 3 week program.
* WYS Report (L. Cleary) Shifting a part of my hours to Social Services starting in May. Temporary and will need to be evaluated. Youth Services offering speaker for middle school parents, Fourteen talks, April 27th, book give away. Hoped to do family volunteer program this month but delayed. Two JRB hearings coming up.
* Student updates:
  + Knox: Before spring break, doing things to support student body. Did handouts each day, lemonade on Monday, cookies on Tuesday, etc. Talking about other ways to support student, “pick me up type stuff.”
  + Graduation, current plan is to have graduation on football field and limit participants. Senior prom but not Junior prom.
  + Could Henry Hoeffner possibly be a liaison to organize the Presidential Volunteer program without being an official YC member. Knox will speak to him about it.
  + Emma: Continues to be liaison with Turning Point CT on mental health for young adults and teens. Strategy meeting rescheduled to May 26, so she will update YC in May.

1. Other member updates:
   * Discussion of school liaison role: be in touch lightly, as a parent share perspectives re: what’s happening with the school.
   * Hilary Misiano: start to go to WHS PTO meetings
   * Gillian Donovan: HES: perspective as parent of HES. Seems people are getting out into the world more. As a therapist, seeing increase in referrals for depression and anxiety. Therapists are seeing high demand. Anticipates wave of anxiety issues in Fall.
   * Shara Kolodney: TEAM Weston and Norfield Church sponsoring event on anniversary of George Floyd’s murder, May 25th, Updates coming. She is doing a fun PBIS morale booster at WMS, hiding things around school, monthly themed, and giving out prizes.
   * Jane Hoeffner: volunteer opportunity list is on WYS website, link to updated list. Need to do more to promote this to community in coming months.
2. New ideas/discussion: Nothing raised.
3. For the good of the order: Nothing raised.
4. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: May 17th, 2021 5:30-6:45 @ virtual