

Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2nd 2014

In Attendance: John Williams, Jim Fitch, Pat Bowman, Mary Cuzzens, Dick Barrett, Tom Bilyk, Amy Hansmann, Molly Uhlir, Carla Sloan, Danielle Flikkema, and Anna Schaider.

Meeting called to order at 5:52 PM

No public comments.

Liaison Reports:

River Forest: Carla was in Springfield last week defending River Forest Township and trying to prevent the purposed bill from passing. The bill was pulled due to a lack of support. However, Carla feels this is not the end of it, and there will be further attempts by the village to take over the township. She is still looking for as much support and positive feedback regarding the township as possible. The annual meeting is April 8th- she is expecting that there may be some publicity around the bill and attempted shut down, and hopes community members will be present to help show support of the township.

Oak Park: The Youth Services Contracts were approved for FY15. Final billing for FY14 was approved and processed with exception to District 97's invoice which will be held until they give clearer documentation of their billing. The township is still meeting regarding strategic planning and what improvements or changes can be made moving into the next fiscal year. The Community Youth Advocate position was approved as a full time position. Auditors are being the FY14 audit this week as well.

Director's Report: The contract recommendations to the board all went through. Working to finalize some billing and reporting type logistics before sending out the contract award letters.

The interventionists have been seeing a lot of trauma related referrals lately, especially ones pertaining to inappropriate sexual behaviors. John feels there is a strong correlation between the A-score test and these types of referrals. Parents are calling asking for mentoring, or job training but after further conversation it becomes apparent there are deeper issues going on.

The annual COG (Council of Governments) meetings have gone well and support is still strong for the township work.

There has been a lot of growth and development around peace circles. There are faculty at the high school who are using an office there to hold circle after school board members heard about them happening in the community they wanted them in the school. Stephen holds circle within his mentoring groups and at the township on Mondays. Youth and adults alike are becoming very interested and looking at it as a viable form of community building.

Stephen's Community Youth Advocate position has been approved to go full time. He has about 45 upcoming referrals from Rob and 60 of his own for the YES! Program. There are a handful of high school students who have gone through the program that now want to be trained as mentors as well. John thinks this is a good time for many programs (snowball, starfish project, mentoring groups, peace circle groups, etc.) to align and work in closer partnership.

The Interact Club with Rotary is going well. Kids are developing interest. Right now they are working on a book drive.

The interventionist database needs renewal, however it is a big/costly upgrade so we are going to looking into grants and other ways of funding it before moving forward on that project.

Various organizations in the community have requested presentations from the interventionists on thing such as bullying, internet safety, etc. Those are coming up in the next few months.

CMHB (Community Mental Health Board) hosted several trauma related trainings last week which were well attended. John was glad to hear this as it is important to have referral sources who are trained as trauma informed therapists.

Oak Park Adjudication has asked us to take over managing youth offenders who are from out of town but still need to serve hours. They met and are looking at working out those details.

Face-It has reached their 100th family and are doing well. They are hosting a retreat this week to help refresh facilitators and look for places the program can improve as a whole.

I.M.P.A.C.T. is interviewing six candidates for a part time position this week. They are hoping to hire someone who can put more consistent energy and focus into hosting parent cafes and keeping them routine.

New business was covered in the Director's report.

No old business.

Motion to adjourn by Bob, seconded by Anna. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned 8:11 PM.