

Youth Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 5th 2013

In Attendance: Pat Bowman, Mary Cozzens, John Williams, Dick Barrett, George Bailey, Bob Giles, Julie McCarthy, Marge Trybus, Karen Taubman, Jim Fitch, Judy Crivolio, Danielle Valdes.

Meeting called to order at 6:50, by John W. due to chair's absence.

New member introductions and short bios.

Approval of minutes motioned by Bob G.- Pat B. Seconds, pass pending spelling error.

Liaison reports: New liaisons sworn in last week, getting a feel for being on the committee. Ann Pepper and Carla Sloan met regarding filling open River Forest spots on committee. River Forest is in process of approving new budget.

Director's report:

FACE-IT currently has a high volume of kids. Most referred for underage drinking at a party. Face It is set to end at the end of the month. Considering extending for a few more weeks so that current clients can finish mandated sessions. Was looking at the possibility of doing it all summer, however the budget and manpower is not available. Overall, the program is proving to be successful and there are many families consistently involved.

TIME: Time is very busy as well, receiving many referrals and working with some more challenging cases as well.

Concordia is looking to send 10 interns to get experience from August through December. John is thinking of training them in the Rainbows program and/or Peace Circles. He is hoping to send them to schools to hold groups once trained in one or both of these ways. Overall, he is trying to find the best use of their time, especially considering it is limited to a 5 month span.

The Interventionist team has 15 graduates this year- both high school and junior high graduations. Many of these clients were doing poorly for years and many figured they would not graduate.

OPRFHS has had a lot of fights within the last few weeks resulting in a lot of police activity at the school. There was a shooting on the west side of Chicago that some students were present during. John suspected there would be retaliation and that people would come to the high

school for that purpose. Security was amped up that week and while people came with intentions of harm, nothing happened due to the heightened security.

FAS requests are at \$2,690 for Oak Park and \$2,534 for River Forest so far this fiscal year which is higher than normal, especially for River Forest.

The Mentoring for Peace Conference was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. John hopes it can be rescheduled for some time in the fall. He is also trying to make it an event where CEU's would be offered and hoping to get the word out about the event earlier and to more people/organizations.

Motivational Mentoring has 60 youth involved and is expecting to get another influx of students this summer. They are also looking into holding a weekly event at a barber shop to create safe space for youths to talk and meet up.

John is hoping to get more people trained in Rainbows, Peace Circles, trauma, and possibly a training on K2 (synthetic marijuana and bath salts) since it seems to be gaining popularity among youth.

Melissa and Rob did a gang training at Hephzibah last week with thirty-five people in attendance. They are also looking to do one with Park District staff within the next few weeks. Melissa has organized a training session for 8th graders at Roosevelt about peer pressure, and the transition into high school. The staff will be attending and helping her facilitate that tomorrow afternoon.

Marge T. suggests getting on the high school board meeting agenda to talk about services the township offers youth in the community and to make the board aware of all the programs we support within the school districts in the community. She also thinks this would be a good way to network and advertise about the Mentoring for Peace conference in the fall. She also said she would like to get all the contracted homework helper coordinators from the district school together for networking and training. She mentioned Judy Christmas as a good resource for that.

Jim F. will head up writing a letter with David Boulanger regarding being put on the high school board meeting agenda to talk over Marge's ideas.

Judy mentions using interns to help rising 8th graders get connected with resources at the high school to help make the transition easier. Maybe using preventative referrals so kids who potentially would be at risk can find an outlet before it gets to that point.

John W. attended a memorial for Anne Smedinghoff who was killed while doing Foreign Service in Afghanistan. 20 Texas rotary members came up to be involved with the event, which John said was very well done. He will also be attending a memorial for 3 Fenwick students who have died recently.

John and Bob are working on getting early act/rotary into Ascension School.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Bob, second by Judy- all in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 8:28pm