

Oak Park Township Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes

October, 2nd 2013

In attendance: Danielle Valdes, John Williams, Bob Giles, Valerie Werner, Mary Cuzzens, Tom Bylik, Molly Uhlir, Lynn Hayes, Amy Hansmann, Marge Trybus, Dick Barrett, and Jim Fitch.

Meeting called to order: 6:53 pm

Minutes approved; Motion by Bob G., Second by Valerie W.

OP Liaison Report: The Township Board met about changing the Township's insurance from a plan with the Village through BCBS over to a Coop called Intergovernmental Personal Benefit Cooperative through United Healthcare. The board voted to go with this new plan, and a three year contract. Open enrollment begins November 1st and coverage will change over January 1st.

Volunteer Recognition Event is scheduled for Friday, November 1st at the Carleton of Oak Park. Angela is sending out invitations with more information.

Director's Report:

Face-It is in its third week of the fourth year running and is doing well with about 15 families in attendance.

T.I.M.E. is doing well also with 9 youth completing community service at present.

Stephen is doing well with YES! Mentoring M&M group met for lunch at OPRFHS with about 60 kids. He is having much success in connecting with youth at the high school and some teachers are even requesting he comes to their classrooms to help manage youth. He is looking to be trained in Peace Circles and with other Administrators to do it as well.

Holiday Food & Gift Program is gearing up for the season. The staff is working hard to make sure the families in need get coverage via this program.

John is working on coordinating some activities between Rotary and the Township, being as he is the Activities Chair for Rotary, one of those being the "Festival of Trees" event. John is also going to an event on the 9th of November where 60 or so Rotary clubs will be present at an event regarding mentoring.

Community Mental Health Board is hosting a social services event in a few weeks which the township will be at. They have a lot going on as well with their new programs they are working on.

FAS- is being used well, River Forest is higher than it has been in past years, and we are looking into raising the budget on that.

John did a presentation at Fenwick on drugs and alcohol and it seemed to have gone very well.

The intervention team has been attending a trauma training that seems to be working out well as a networking outlet.

John is working on a collaboration with CUC to develop a program that would allow interns at the university to pair with youth to take career interest surveys. There would be three meetings, an initial introduction, the survey, and then a final meeting to go over results. At risk 8th graders are the target audience, trying to give them some direction as they head into highschool.

John also attended a neighborhood meeting last month on off of Austin after a shooting took place in that neighborhood. A State's Attorney, police officers, John, and residents attended and voiced their concerns, which the police have, or will look into. There has been higher police presence in that neighborhood since that shooting took place as well.

The interventionists are doing presentations around the community at the schools on drugs, the new drug laws, etc. Seems to be in high demand and helpful to youth and staff at schools alike.

The Special Ed department is going through a lot of transition at the High School since school started this year with many new changes going on.

Committee briefly spoke about getting ready for contracts to be submitted again for the next fiscal year. More to be discussed on that next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:32 motioned by Marge, seconded by Dick.