

Youth Services Committee Meeting
October 11th 2017

Meeting called to order at: 7:05 p.m.

In Attendance: John W., Ashley S., Jhontia W., Dick B., Dave Y., Carla S., Natalie W., Sarah M., Eric D,

Approval of last meeting's minutes: Motion to approve made by Dick B., Seconded by Natalie W.

Public Comments: None

Director's Report: Cargo circle training, co-led by John and George, was hosted at the Township boardroom on October 6th. Fifteen 5th grade teachers from Irving, Longfellow, Holmes and Whittier attended, along with several other potential facilitators. John is currently working on finalizing the schedule and circles will start up next week. Overall, the training went well and teachers left on a positive note and are enthusiastic for circles to get started. Measurements for pre and post data are also in place.

Caseloads have increased very quickly for our Interventionists. The Interventionists have been involved in some serious and intense cases as of late. Aside from their normal caseload, all three Interventionists are also involved in group work. Dominique is continuing with her girls group, Brison is gearing up to host a boy's group at Julian and Amanda will be hosting groups in River Forest at the library and with a Girls Scout Troop. All three Interventionists will also be leading Cargo Circles.

John met with the Principal at Julian, Dr. Todd Fitzgerald and Vice Principal at Brooks, Michelle Reed to address changes the committee wanted to see to their FY17 contract requests. Dr. Fitzgerald outlined the changes that he made to the program during FY16 and explained how those changes impacted their approach to programming for FY17. Brooks Middle School is still adjusting to staff transitions and is working on re-structuring their program.

River Forest Liaison Report: River Forest accepted the resignation of two committee members; Anna, who has been with the committee since November 2013 and Amy, who has been with the committee since September 2013. All the River Forest members (Sarah, Dick and Cal) will meet with Carla to discuss filling in the remaining positions.

River Forest is celebrating their 100th anniversary. The Community Health needs assessment has been a year in the making. It has been a wonderful partnership between the River Forest Township, CMHB of Oak Park and the Oak Park Public Health Department. The idea behind this assessment was to bring mental and public health together since there is such a significant overlap. The process involved a community survey, a data analysis by the consulting firm and several stake holder meetings with members of both communities. The end result is a document that identifies problems, risks, strategies and solutions. Anyone looking for more information can contact Carla Sloan. River Forest Township is also undertaking a brain health initiative. The Township recognizes the significant senior population in both communities. A partnership with the villages is underway to focus on brain health and programs for safety and outreach to those seniors.

The community also continues to struggle with suicide. A grief support group, Loss, helps people who have lost loved ones to suicide. The group has an excellent reputation and two groups are starting at River Forest Township; one for adults and one for teens. This support group fills a big void in the Western Suburbs.

IMP.A.C.T. along with Roosevelt Middle School, Kiwanis and River Forest Township will be sponsoring a Social Media Risk Workshop that targets middle and high school students. A handout with more information was provided.

Positive Youth Development is moving along nicely. Aimee Bates will be replacing Terria Diggins as the new grant coordinator. Matt Baron was hired by the grant to lead efforts on the communications campaign. The Township was not awarded the Drug Free Communities Grant, which would have expanded the grant to cover all substances.

Safe disposal of prescription and over-the-counter medications is a big problem. There are safety disposal boxes in both communities. Medications can be disposed of in the basement of River Forest Village Hall in River Forest and in the lobby of the Oak Park Police Department. A handout with more information was provided.

Oak Park Liaison Report: The board spoke at their meeting about the committee's redefined vision. Both the committee and Board feel it is very important to not duplicate services. The board was unclear that the mission was specifically in regards to contract requests only. The Liaison will follow up in the next meeting to clarify that detail.

The board also discussed youth alcohol and substance abuse in the community. An IGov meeting is coming up in November that will involve members from all boards. This meeting will be addressing growth in the community, specifically in urban development. This is an open meeting to all.

New Business:

Vision Statement Review: The committee reviewed the vision statement that the sub-committee wrote at the previous meeting:

The Youth Services Committee directs community resources to efforts and programs that empower youth to embrace their gifts and enable them to access opportunities for growth. We prioritize programs that demonstrate measureable success easing the challenge of key transition periods across grades 5-9.

Carla liked that she could "hear" the voices of many of our committee members in that short statement. She suggested identifying the Township's role in the committee so that the statement would read "The Youth Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships directs..."

Dick suggests adding the word "in" after measurable success so the new statement would read "We prioritize programs that demonstrate measurable success in easing the challenge..."

The revised statement will read:

The Youth Services Committee of Oak Park and River Forest Townships directs community resources to efforts and programs that empower youth to embrace their gifts and enable them to access opportunities for growth. We prioritize programs that demonstrate measureable success in easing the challenge of key transition periods across grades 5-9.

The committee votes on adopting this new vision and the motion passes unanimously.

Contract Request Form Review: Sarah met with Ashley on Friday, October 6th to review changes to be made to the contract request form so that the proposal reflects the committee's new vision. Handouts were provided for members to follow along with. Dick suggests adding in an additional page that outlines a timeline for contractors. The committee has previously held mentor training sessions that contractors were required to attend. Sarah suggests hosting training sessions that specifically address why providing support to youth in transition periods are important.

Pat, Committee Chair, was unable to attend and has asked John to present the idea of nominating a vice chair. A quorum is needed in order to make this decision. The committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:21 P.M.

Motioned by: Sarah M., **Seconded by** Natalie W.