

Youth Services Committee Meeting
September 4th 2013.

In attendance: Mary Cuzzens, Ann Pepper, Jim Fitch, Valerie Werner, John Williams, Pat Bowman, Julie MacCarthy, Molly Uhlir, Lynn Hayes, Amy Hansmann, George Bailey, Dick Barrett, Bob Giles.

Meeting called to order at 6:57 p.m.

A few minutes were taken for new introductions of River Forest members and to give well wishes to Ann Pepper who is ending her 15+ year run on the committee.

Bob motions to accept minutes, Julie seconds pending one correction.

Liaison reports: Mary spoke about the budget/audit that was just completed for the township. She said that the Township is doing well at stewarding our funding. The Township has been recognized for the seventh year for our efforts on a solid budget, it is uncommon that townships receive this award. The auditors did point out a few areas of improvement. First, upgrading technology security by doing frequent password changes. The second was separating and defining the cash handling system and making sure there was more accountability in the flow of money.

The Township is looking to get healthcare on its own as we have been getting it through the Village.

Senior Services just went through a big change when there was a state wide mandate that case workers who are assigned to investigate elder abuse, will not have to investigate any abuse in any disabled adults referred.

River Forest has been going through a lot of changes with Carla coming on board as Township Manager. She has worked on filling the spaces on the Youth Services Committee and is working on getting accustomed to the tasks at hand.

Director's Report:

Face-It resumes on September 19th with 18-20 families. River Forest is working on the fine structure for families who choose to opt out of Face It, making it a higher rate which is hoped to motivate families to take Face It over the fine. Jen is now the main contact for Face It, with Kelly O'Connor taking over Jen's position. Three facilitators have moved on from the program, and they are hoping to replace them all.

T.I.M.E. is doing very well and is seeing a 3 year wait before recidivism if any at all.

John met with people over at Concordia University a few times to talk about the possibilities of getting more interns in the winter. John is trying to work out the best use of their time when they come. He is thinking of having students paired with an intern and doing an Interest Inventory to help them better prepare when choosing classes etc.

The team attended the first session of the Trauma Informed Care Training at the library, which was put on by UIC. About 14 people came representing 8 agencies. John is interested in getting their tracking manual which make bolster the way the team tracks clients now if it proves to be a useful resource.

George spoke briefly about the Multi-Cultural Committee and how they are looking to hire someone as a patient navigator to help people get the resources they need in what they are referring to “one stop shopping”. This way, people can be connected to resources in mental health or other areas while taking care of issues on multiple fronts. They are doing a test run with 20 families.

John talked about a recent study he read that men and women carry and process depression differently. It usually manifests itself as anger and or aggression in men, causing them to be falsely diagnosed with other mental illness issues.

George gave a summary of what’s going on in mentoring. A cohort of boys that were mentored 10 years ago have just graduated this summer. Yes! Is going well, its mission is to teach, mentor, and show boys that people care about them and they have the ability to succeed. Their manifesto is; graduate high school, don’t make babies, don’t go to jail, don’t do dope.

Motivational Mentoring starts this month- they are seeing numbers rise where there were 60 kids last year they are anticipating 80 this year. They are working on logistical and policy changes due to higher number of youth involved and changes at the high school where these groups take place.

There was discussion of girls groups or mentoring initiatives. John talked about how there had been attempts in the past but nothing that stuck. Valerie talked about wanting to try to make a group happen.

Parent Cafes- Have started up again and are going well.

John is still working on Rotary Peace Initiatives. He will be presenting at a conference in November. He and Bob are working on Rotary Early Act where they get school aged kids involved. They hope to do this with one school as a pilot and move it to more once they see how it works out.

LemonAid stand is on September 11th in River Forest, funds are going to Oak Leyden.

Holiday Food & Gift Basket has started to gear up for another year. They are looking for people to sponsor families for Christmas and give funds as well.

Motion to adjourn by Ann, seconded by Bob.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 p.m.