

## Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

In Attendance: John W., Danielle F., Valerie W., Jim F., Mary C., Dick B., Carla S., Molly U., Lynn H., Tom B., Anna S., and Marge T. (George B. was in attendance for a few moments at the start of the meeting but had a prior engagement).

Called to order: 6:55 PM

At the start of the meeting there was no quorum, however more people showed up and quorum was met.

George gave a brief report on his involvement with the YES! Program this summer. There were 13 youth who attended a dozen or so sessions. Sessions included trips to the DuSable Museum, Columbia College, and check-in's at the Township offices. Through this program some of the youth found summer work, spoke about their fears of the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition, and other important concerns. George said the word that keeps coming back to him about his experience and the youth's experience this summer is "illuminated".

Director's Report:

There was a second session of Peace Circle Training held in late June where 15 people attended, 7 of them being local youth. There has been over 100 circles help within the community from the time of the first training until now. John and Stephen are in talks with Hephzibah about integrating them more into the work they do there. They are working on strategic planning for their policy on how to work with and prepare youth who are leaving their programming. Stephen and John also held circles this summer with youth from district 97 who were transitioning from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and that seemed to be a success. Circles are being held at the high school as well. At the end of last school year John, Stephen, and Kelly all did circles at St. Luke's for their 4<sup>th</sup> graders and the school requested they come back this year and do it with all grades. They donated money and sent a nice letter to rotary, thanking them for funding the peace circles and peace circle training in the community.

A group John knows out of Maryland donated funds to Rotary to continue the work of peace circles in this community as well. Right now there is about \$700 in funding for more peace circle training and work within the community.

Friday Morning meetings continued all summer with a good turnout- even some youth in attendance.

Motivational Mentoring is starting in two weeks once youth are settled in school and back in the school year routine. Stephen got releases for each youth he has in M&M so he can access school records regarding grades, attendance, etc. He also is planning on hosting an event to help train parents in how to use skyword (the information system the high school uses).

The Interventionists had a quiet summer with most of their clients finding work, being connected with summer programs, and other activities. Typically they see some violence, this summer was more verbal arguments than anything else.

The River Forest Library requested extra back up from the Interventionists on Tuesday afternoons when the Roosevelt youth get out of school. They have been going for the last two weeks and things have seemed relatively calm. They hope to be able to establish some relationships with the youth which could possibly transition into some Peace Circle or group work.

According to the last report there are about 120 homeless youth registered for school between both Oak Park and River Forest schools. About 20 of those are from Hephzibah.

TIME is doing well and had a calm summer as well. There is some talk over OP Adjudication move back to Maybrook, however nothing is final. If this were to happen it would make things a bit more difficult for the township programs who work with the adjudication systems, however they would continue to work with the adjudication system either way.

Face It is picking back up for the school year from their Summer break with about 5 families, some finishing off the program from before the break began, and other who are new referrals.

John went to a training called "Working with the Angry Brain" and found it very interesting and insightful regarding working with youth.

Liaison Reports:

OP: Working on improving the township website and trying to make it more user friendly and more consistently updated. Budget was audited and OP Township won another budgeting award- which the Township has won the last 8 years.

The IMRF is funded at 93.98% which is the healthiest retirement fund in the country.

IMPACT is working on a federal grant which targets underage drinking. The township would be the fiscal agent, but would need to hire a staff person to maintain and organize its implementation.

RF: The petition which was presented by the Village did not make it on to the November ballot as the process for gaining signatures was flawed.

Lots of new and upcoming programs going on within RF Township such as a seniors program, a support group for siblings of youth with special needs, etc.

Committee spoke on contract process and formed a subcommittee to rework the process and details of contracting for FY16. Will meet Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51.

\* Director's Report edited after this meeting to reflect current FAS budget/spending.