

Youth Services Committee Meeting
September 13th 2017

Meeting called to order at: 6:56 p.m.

In Attendance: Pat B., John W., Ashley S., Eric D., Sarah M., Natalie W., David Y., Cal D., Dick B., George B., Anna S.

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

Public Comments: None

Introduction of members: The committee welcomed Oak Park Liaison Eric Davies

Director's Report: The Township's newest Interventionist, Brison Blackwell has completed his first month on the job. During that time, he has gotten the opportunity to meet a chance to meet various people in the community and schools he will be working in.

Interventionists closed several families at the end of the summer. Due to increased rent, many families could no longer afford to live in Oak Park.

One of the biggest issues the team is facing in schools when meeting with youth is finding the space to do so. Interventionists are having to find alternative sites in order to meet with their clients.

Dominique, (OPT Youth Interventionist), has started a Girl's group at Brooks. A lot of interest has been shown and both youth and parents have reached out to her to get signed up. Her first meeting was held that afternoon, (9/13) so more updates are to come.

All three Interventionists will be participating in Cargo Circles this year. October 6th, the three Interventionists along with George, John and 15 other teachers and teaching assistants will be participating in a training to introduce cargo circles and get everyone set up for part one of the program. Weekly Cargo Circles will start in October and be held in 4 elementary schools. They will take place in 15 fifth grade classrooms for 10 sessions and then move to the other 4 elementary schools in January.

A SOAR analysis was done on the Student Empowerment Program run Fellowship Community Services. Copies of analysis were handed out to members.

New Business: The committee is starting to prepare for the next funding cycle and began discussing what they feel the focus should be in order to get a clear foundation before reviewing contract requests. YSC Member, Sarah, proposed narrowing the focus to target a more specific area of need. One of the areas that members feel is especially important to focus on are kids who are in transition ages – elementary to middle school and middle school to high school. The committee discussed the idea of not only narrowing the age range to those grades, but also sharpening the focus of the contracted programs to help youth prepare for those transitions.

OP Liaison, Eric, asked each member to write a 1-3 sentences on what they feel the mission of the Youth Services Committee should be. The committee then went around the room and shared and discussed their perspective. (See attached document). More discussion is needed to review and finalize the committee mission. A sub group meeting will be held in order to do this before our official October meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:38 P.M.

Motioned by: Dick B., Seconded by Anna S.