

February Youth Services
Committee Meeting Minutes

In attendance: John Williams, Danielle Valdes, Sarah Arnett, Ann Pepper, Dick Barrett, George Bailey, Bob Giles, Jim Fitch, Judy Crivolio, Tom Bylik, Valerie Werner, Margot Clayton, Marge Trybus, Pat Bowman, Bill Planek,

John W. calls meeting to order at 6:41 pm, (Chair was delayed)

Motion to approve minutes by Marge, seconded by Ann- All in favor.

John gives director's report.

He gave a presentation to Rotary regarding a mentoring partnership with four stages. Elementary school children, 8th graders, job shadowing/mentoring, then a high school level which is more leadership focused. It would be centered around a group model. Oak Park Township Board is enthusiastic about the idea and approved a \$10k match of funds if Rotary decides to move forward.

Youth Conference folders are ordered and program is set up. There will be about 140 kids in attendance this year.

Oak Park Adjudication had approached Youth Services about a possible partnership. John & Gavin met with the powers that be on that situation and there has been no movement. Adjudication needs to figure out their budget and funding possibilities before any more progress can be made.

Youth Services is currently giving trainings to Oak Park Police, this is due to the fact that 70% of the calls they receive pertain to Youth issues with Mental Illness or drug abuse. They will be doing these trainings each Friday thru the end of March.

River Forest COG presentation regarding the Youth Services Interventionist Program went well.

John has upcoming speaking engagements- one is at OPRFHS about violence. He was also asked to MC an awards event at Concordia.

The intern from Concordia is doing well and working with a handful of clients at the schools and the township offices. She is also putting in some time at Ann's House. Ultimately John would like to see more interns in Youth Services who can help facilitate groups in the school or at the township. One of those being Rainbows.

Stephen Jackson is working in the schools 22 hours a week and teachers and students alike are benefitting from his time there. The parent empowerment meeting held last month went very well, with 8 families in attendance. This month's meeting was not quite as successful, however John is hopeful it will improve.

Face-It has seen an increase of referrals from the high school and is on its second week of the new cycle with nearly 15 families in the program. They are also working on a deal with Forest Park Adjudication to receive referrals from them as well.

Susan Stearns will become a part time employee instead of a contractor because of the time and consistency she has put in with the TIME Program.

Oak Park FAS budget is over, while River Forest still has some money available.

IMPACT is going for a \$125k grant from SAMHSA, they applied for this grant last year, and did not receive it. However they have done more research and feel that they have a better chance of getting it this time around.

The Oak Park Township Board approved a 10% budget change. 5% will be taken from each violence prevention and youth development line items and moved to Youth contracts.

Committee broke down to speak about contract requests in small groups. The group came back together as a whole and talked more about the contracts, posed questions they had for specific proposals and decided to invite contractors in on March 6th to be able to address these questions. Committee will then vote on each program and make the proper funding recommendations to the Oak Park Township Board.