

Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 7th 2012

In attendance: John Williams, Jim Fitch, John Hagensick, George Bailey, Ann Pepper, Bill Planek, Margot Clayton, Dick Barrett, Robert Giles, Margaret Trybus, Judy Crivolio, Valerie Werner, Veronica Belmonte, Danielle Valdes.

Not Present: Pat Bowman, Tom Bylik, Sarah Arnett, and Angie Davis.

Called to Order at 6:55 by Jim Fitch.

Jim took a moment to recognize Angie Davis and her years of service for the Youth Services Committee as she will be stepping down. He expressed his appreciation for her giving her time in the capacity she had over the years on the Committee.

Director's Report: John said that the motivational mentoring program is off to a good start and we are already seeing good results. John said that kids who were involved in the mentorship program over the summer have higher grades and are achieving at higher levels than had been originally anticipated. He talked about how the High school is looking to have Stephen Jackson do more mentoring there. George reported that most of these kids struggle with algebra the most. Teachers have been requesting more time as they have seen a notable difference in students who are involved with the mentorship. The teachers have requested more time for Stephen to come to classrooms and spend time there. Currently, he is at the high school on Thursdays and Fridays. Margaret T. suggests the teachers have to give some sort of evaluation of tangible ways the mentorship program is improving their class, wants the school/teachers to take more accountability for the program. Bill P. would like to know what extending Stephen's hours at the high school will mean monetarily. George went on to illustrate how the mentorship program has been a vital aspect of making sure certain populations were not overlooked that normally would be. He said many of the kids mentored over the summer would have slipped through the cracks and how mentorship has prevented that. He also wonders how the high school can reciprocate the services for our extending Stephen's time at the school.

John gave the committee an overview of his meeting with Robert Anderson of Oak Park Adjudication, and how the youth adjudication program is more complicated than he originally anticipated. Robert A. expressed his desire for Youth Services to take over adjudication. John feels this is something that is likely to happen, however everyone has to be on board, and all the resources and procedure has to be in place as well. This is something that will be considered, and a model will be developed for further review. In John's talks about this David Boulinger suggested a peer court model. John thinks there will be 4 forms of "sentencing" in this model; treatment, Face It, Mentoring, and TIME. This would allow us for more and/or thorough assessment of clients, their family, and behaviors of both. John likes the idea of handling adjudication, however he feels that this should be a program that is built from the ground up

and not recycled. Margaret T. thinks it may be necessary to develop a sub-committee that would handle this side of Youth Services.

The TIME program is doing great- there have been 30 Oak Park and 40 River Forest referrals since January. 23 have completed, some have been referred out, and others are still in process of completing hours. Susan is doing well, although some difficulty trying to find placement for clients to do community service.

IMPACT had a forum where 100+ new families came. Parent Cafes are going well also, with 50 new families in attendance at the last meeting. The next Café is on the 14th at Julian- this meeting will practice role plays between parents and children addressing drug and alcohol use.

The contractor networking event is November 13th at 6 pm. There are about 20 contractors who have RSVPed.

Interventionists have been dealing with a lot of crisis calls and drama within the schools. This month we have gotten 4 more calls regarding homeless families. Interventionists are trying to help get them necessary services, and keep the kids in school while things are chaotic for the family.

John did a speaking engagement at Fenwick to the senior class regarding bullying, stalking, internet behavior, violence, sex abuse etc.

Liaison Reports:

Veronica B. reports River Forest Township is going through levy right now so they are busy. Elections are coming as well. They are dealing with lots of contracts for Mental Health work right now. Seniors seems to be expanding and doing more from within. They would like to host an awareness program for seniors addressing issues such as identity theft. There are many good things on the horizon.

Oak Park Township is in the process of working on the upcoming election and levy as well. They have been busy with the opening of the new senior's center- which won an award from OPPD for the revival of the building. Seniors is dealing with much higher volume with the new building. Lunches have gone up to about 92 people. Considering having 2 lunch shifts to accommodate everyone comfortably.

New Business: Jim suggests the committee starts considering new membership as Angie Davis is resigning and there can be more seats filled. Asks committee members to consider this.

D97 request: John, Margaret, and Bob met with the principals from D97 and hear their request for an after school program. They would like to see something a bit more creative and engaging. The committee all agrees they like the general concept, just need more molding. John wonders if it might help to get all the middle school administrators/teachers together for trainings in mentoring. His thought is if they had more experience in this they may be better equipped to handle a program based around those ideas. George B. talks about a recent article he has read on the blog; www.fischerandfrey.com about being more creative in teaching styles and how ideas from there might be integrated in this new program.

Margaret T. motions to fund program up to \$9,000.00 dependent upon making changes to program idea. Bob G. seconds, all in favor.

December's meeting will be on December 5th, with a short meeting then an appreciation/holiday dinner to follow.

Ann Pepper motions to adjourn at 8:34 Valerie seconds.