

Youth Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October, 3rd 2012

In Attendance: John Williams, Pat Bowman, John Hagensick, Sarah Arnett, George Bailey, Sue (?), Tom Bilyk, Ann Pepper, Bill Planek, Jim Fitch, Margot Clayton, Dick Barrett, Robert Giles, Margaret Trybus, and Danielle Valdes.

Not In Attendance: Valerie Werner, Angie Davis, Judy Crivolio, and Veronica Krawczyk.

Meeting was called to order at 6:52pm, motioned by John Hagensick.

Motion to approve last meetings minutes pending minor changes was led by Tom B., seconded by John W. and Sue *.

There were no liaisons in attendance, thus no liaison report was given.

Director's Report: John W. gave his report on the developing situations within Youth Services over the course of the last month. This week John has been at a police training conference in Arlington Heights and will return to the office Tuesday.

A rising concern in both police enforcement and social service agencies is the rise in homelessness. Homelessness has quadrupled since 2008, with the current number of homeless being somewhere around 1500. This is something, John reports, the township is seeing as a rising issue within our own community. Youth Services is handling 4 cases of homeless youth right now, however, there is progress being made. One youth had dropped out of High school and is now reenrolled; another is back in classes and finishing up the last six weeks of classes necessary to receive their diploma. The coalition for the homeless is working on the other two cases, trying to fight to get the kids back in school.

Along these lines, a lot of outreach has been going on in the community through programs such as P.A.D.S. and Threshold. They have been doing a lot of work in Oak Park, River Forest, Stickney, Berwyn, etc. A program just recently started through a partnership between Thresholds and P.A.D.S. where people are going out at night and finding homeless and helping meet their needs with food or clothing etc. The Walk in Ministry is doing well also.

John's feeling is that once election season is over there will be another round of State and or Federal Budget cuts, which will cause many more programs to have to close their doors, leaving even more people homeless, and without resources. John said this is already been seen in the \$100 million in budget cuts since 2008.

Because of these budget cuts, a lot of interesting alliances are being made between different programs and social service agencies. John feels that in a lot of ways the Township is ahead of the curve as far as these issues, and collaborations go.

The Interventionist staff has gotten ID's and parking spaces at the High school, and their office has been renamed (from "Lost & Found" to "Township"). John also reported how important the work the interventionist's are doing is. That nearly 70% of the police calls received in OP/RF are related to OPRFHS Youth.

John reported that FACE IT is doing well in its fourth week. Julie Raino and Jen Roth are the site managers of the program. They participated in FACE IT last year as facilitators during its pilot phase. Julie works for Hospice and has been involved in many other social services related endeavors. Jen Roth is a driver's education teacher at OPRF and is a S.A.D. Facilitator as well. Both are doing a great job with the program. There are 10 families attending the program so far. All ten of those families have been referred by RF Adjudication. OP Adjudication is restructuring their system and now meeting once a month (Thursday nights). FACE IT is being held in the Senior Services meeting center, which has been very beneficial financially as they were renting a room elsewhere.

The Community Mental Health Board has some money which is to be used for youth outreach; however they are aware that Mental Health underserves the minority community. They are forming an Advisory Action Group focusing on this issue, and they have asked John W. and George B. to be involved in this process.

John spoke about the academic drop off seen in community youth between junior high and high school. John would like a case study to be done which examines the variables for this behavior. This opened up a lively discussion between committee members regarding Margaret T.'s graduate students who have a purposed literacy program they would like to pilot and a D97 request for after school programs in both Julian & Brooks Middle schools. The consideration was how all of these ideas can be melded into one cohesive program in which the graduate students could carry out their plans for a literacy program, a longitudinal case study can be done to measure literacy, grades, attendance, and discipline over the transition from middle school to high school, and implementation of an after school program at Julian & Brooks schools.

The committee was excited about the fact that the principals of Julian & Brooks were collaborating together on a program for their schools as that is something that has not happened before. The committee really wants to see a more innovative program than the standard after school program in those schools. The committee has decided they are interested in hearing more about the proposal from D97 and see what can be done about building a program that will meet many goals. Margaret T., George B, and Bob G.

will meet with the principals to find out more about what needs they have and what they want to see happen for this program. The final thought about this proposal is that they are excited to see the schools working together on a collaborative effort for a new program, as the committee is experienced with funding literacy programs they would like to see this idea unpacked and brought to life more before considering giving funding to it. With the experience the committee has with funding such programs they would also like to help these administrators put “wheels” on the program.

The Harlem Ambassadors are playing next week, October 11th, at Trinity at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased from John.

The T.I.M.E. Program is receiving more and more referrals, so much so Susan needed to find more service sites for kids to go to. Most kids are receiving between 15-20 hours of service, while others get 20-40 depending on the offence. John has approved Susan to work more hours in light of the rise in popularity of the program.

IMP.A.C.T. is hosting a community wide forum on Wednesday October 24th at 9 pm at the Century Club. There will be about 6 speakers on hand, one of whom is John. He will mostly be addressing the Illinois Youth Survey. He has received the results of both D90 & D97; however D200 has not released their results yet. D90 had 1% higher report of drug usage, however John commented this is not a statistically significant difference. However, the survey does report high drug usage among 6-8th graders. John requested Dick B. to review the data; John would like to see a benchmark statistic to have as a reference. John also talked about how students are now allowed to have their cell phones in school and the concerns and issues that brings up. The next parent café is on October 29th which the D90 PTO is putting on; the one following is on November 14th which will be run by Christine Raino.

The grant with SAMHSA fell through.

The fall contract programs have started and seem to be going well so far.

George Bailey spoke about a recent article in the Tribune which talks about the skewed treatment of youth in schools based on race.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-09-26/news/ct-met-unequal-school-discipline-20120926_1_black-students-superintendent-nicholas-wahl-federal-data

Old Business: George Bailey has not yet completed the Evaluation Report. The committee wants to choose a date for the next Meet & Greet in November. The week of the 12th is looked at as the best possibility. The Evaluations will be done independently of the RFP handout this year.

There was also talk of the plan for the Job Readiness program and what the future of that looks like. John feels now that the Administrative position is filled that issue can be addressed. He feels it still needs revamping and that it should continue as one of our programs because there is no other program out there like it. The committee decided this will be considered more and will revisit the subject at a later time.

John suggests a literacy, mentoring, spoken word- HOOTANANY. Margaret T. likes the idea. This will be considered.

Motion to adjourn at 8:21pm, led by Jim F., Margo C. & Bob G. second.