



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – May 23, 2016

Attendance: Olivia Goldberg, Zane Rahabi, Daniel O’Connor, John Loughnane, David Russell, Domenic Cianciarulo, Gioia Cianciarulo, Simone Greenberg, Sophia Paravalos, Trish Tucke, Alicia Lamonda, Olivia O’Shea, Sarah Baroud, Mary Ellen LaRose, Arlene Kasarjian, Austin Bushey

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. The new student board members for the 2016-2017 school year were introduced. Olivia Goldberg, Dan O’Connor and Zane Rahabi will officially join the board in September.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the April board meeting were accepted.

III. Director’s Report:

Clinical Services

*There are currently **44 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload: 36 individual clients; 1 family client; 7 parent consultations.

*There have been **5 new intakes** for counseling services so far in the month of May. There is currently a waitlist for services, and we are using the “consultation” model to be sure families are served in the most effective way. As always, referrals are triaged so that those residents in most immediate need are prioritized.

*The final round of weekly **Structured Play Groups** ends this Thursday, with a total of **25 participants**. All of these groups take place off-site at either the Hanlon School or Martha Jones School to best serve students in Extended Day.

Program Updates

*The final **Teen Center** event took place on May 13th with our **Teen Center Mentors** and Y&FS staff acting as role models and chaperones for the event. There were approximately 140 middle schoolers that attended. Our total funds received from Teen Center this year was about \$2400.

*The funds received from Teen Center have been allotted to our **Mentor Scholarship Program**, rewarding dedicated seniors who have served 2+ years in our mentor program. We selected 4 seniors of the 15 who applied. Each will receive approximately \$600. The four seniors are Gioia Cianciarulo, Libby James, Kevin Deeb and Melissa Mealy.

***Sixteen (16) Mentors** participated in the Body Safety Theater performances on May 10 and 12 at all 5 elementary schools. WY&FS staff facilitated pre- and post-performance classroom visits to all 3rd grade classrooms. It was a great success!

*WY&FS staff have selected 2 **Masters in Social Work Interns** for the 2016-17 school year. Both are from the Simmons MSW Graduate program.

Community Connections

*On May 24th, Y&FS will attend the next **Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition grant meeting in Needham**. This grant, secured by the Boards of Health in Westwood, Norwood, Dedham and Needham, aims to reduce issues related to underage drinking and substance abuse in the region.

*Y&FS helped to support WHS in the implementation of their **Signs of Suicide (S.o.S.)** program and first-time (for WHS) depression screening with the 9th grade Wellness classes on May 4th, 2016.

*Youth & Family Services staff continues to participate in the local community group, **Westwood Cares**. The group now has active Facebook and Twitter accounts, with a web page in development. On June 1st at 7 PM at the WHS Auditorium, Westwood Cares will host the Social Host Liability Event, featuring Kathi Sullivan presenting "Taylor's Message."

*The work to support the families in **Emergency Shelter at the Budget Inn** is complete, with all families having moved out. The Transitional Assistance Group received the Roy London Humanitarian Award on April 28, along with a Governor's Citation from Rep. Paul McMurtry.

*Y&FS staff applied for the **IAM Strong Spring 2016 Grant** for funds to support a marketing campaign for the William James INTERFACE Referral Service. WY&FS did not receive funds from this grant cycle for the INTERFACE marketing project.

*Y&FS staff has attended the **Islington Center Task Force** monthly meetings. The Request For Proposals has been sent out. Completed proposals for the redevelopment of 4 parcels of land in Islington are due back by June 20. The Islington Community Center is one of the parcels being considered.

*In April, Y&FS has attended or will attend meetings of the **WHS Site Council, Deerfield Site Council, Westwood Early Childhood Council, Westwood Cares, Islington Center Task Force, Child Study Team (CST) at WHS, Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT)** and the **Westwood Community Chest**.

V. Old Business

ICC Security/Safety Improvements: Sarah shared that DPW has contracted with a company to provide two security cameras for inside the ICC. The footage will be stored at the police station.

VI. New Business

Staff Transitions: WY&FS is happy to announce clinician Joanna Bengel will be transitioning into the newly created Social Worker Position at Westwood High School. Danielle and Human Resources are working together to get approval from the Selectmen to post the open position.

Community Liaisons:

Elementary Schools: Mary Ellen reported the Sheehan 5th grade play, *Shrek* happened in early May. 5th graders recently visited Thurston.

Thurston Middle School: Austin shared that today was the 20th and final day of standardized testing in the building. 239 8th graders will be attending the Washington DC trip in early June. Over \$17,000 was raised to help fund the trip for those facing financial difficulty. Austin gave the group an update on the Choose to be Nice Club that he supervises. Over 25 students have joined. Recently, they focused their efforts on cleaning up the space behind Alltown, Dunkin Donuts and the Westwood Cemetery.

Westwood High School: Simone, Gioia and Olivia discussed the recent Jr./Sr. Prom that was held at Lake Pearl. A new tradition was started this year where students will introduce themselves and their date to the teachers. Olivia shared that the National Honor Society induction ceremony recently took place. Passing Notes music group performed at the METCO graduation. Simone and David began a discussion on the transition from junior to senior year.

Westwood Community Chest: David shared with the new members how the WCC campership program works. Sarah noted that WCC has recently increased their financial assistance grant and campership awards for FY17.

Westwood Cares: The group will be hosting a Social Host Liability event for all Westwood parents at WHS on June 1st.

Food Pantry: Trish shared that the food pantry was the recipient of a food drive at the Deerfield School and a Girl Scout troop in town has been helpful in getting the word out about the Pantry.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose.