

TOWN OF CROMWELL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER—Maggie Schufer called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

2. INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL – Gayle Ivy, Maggie Schufer, Barbara McClane, Eileen McNulty, Haily Stone, Suzanne Rutner, Gunner Rumpf, Jess Zeedyk, Hope Fiondella, Sarah Calos, Paula Luna, and Detective Tolton.

3. APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA – Maggie Schufer motioned to approve the agenda for the April 17, 2024, meeting, seconded by Suzanne Rutner.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - Suzanne Rutner motioned to approve the March 19, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Maggie Schufer.

5. OLD BUSINESS - No old business was discussed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation of the Cromwell Restorative Youth Diversion Program –

- Eileen McNulty, Cromwell's Restorative Youth Diversion (CRYD) Case Manager, introduced herself and shared the goals of the Cromwell Restorative Youth Diversion. She explained that youth misdemeanors get referred to the CRYD to work towards a less punitive and more restorative outcome. She explained that her role as Case Manager is scheduling meetings, presenting to the Juvenile Review Board, and establishing a work agreement for the youth. She added that the agreement is for the youth to work on four areas: positive youth development and self-improvement, family, others impacted, and the community. Detective Tolton added that if a parent and/or youth refuses the process, the case will be reviewed in court. A discussion was held about what is considered a misdemeanor and patterns in juvenile arrests.
- Sarah shared the data from quarters 1 and 2 of the state Youth Services Bureau provided by Dillinger (attached). She added that quarter 3 data is due Friday, April 26. Sarah reported that there has been a significant increase in youth utilizing the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) in recent years. She shared that Cromwell's JRB was established in 2020, but before that, Cromwell did not have a JRB. She added that the JRB had 3 cases in 2020, 5 cases in 2021, 4 cases in 2022, and 14 cases in 2023.

b. Volunteer opportunities for teens—Sarah reported that Cromwell Youth Services is starting to compile a list of volunteer opportunities for teens in town. Intern Hope Fiondella is currently working on this project. She has been contacting local businesses

and organizations to vet them and gather appropriate contact information. A discussion was had about ideas for organizations and businesses to contact.

c. Event attendance – A discussion was had about ways to promote programs to and get more to register that included the following ideas.

- Adjust the time of the programming.
- Offering programs at different times of the year.
- Advising students at CMS and CHS during morning announcements.
- Posting flyers on school bulletin boards.
- Sending emails to students directly.
- Having a table during lunch periods at CMS and/or CHS to promote the department and programs.
- A marquee sign at Cromwell Town Hall.

7. STANDING REPORTS

a. Schools – Andrea Middlebrook was not present but provided the following report:

- 8th grade is raising funds by hosting pajama day on Friday for year-end activities, including a field trip and 8th grade dance & promotion
- The PTO-sponsored spring dance is on 4/26 from 6-8 pm and has an 80s-90s theme.
- 6th Grade will participate in the 2nd CMS Engineering Day on Wednesday. The CHS Educational Leadership Club will come to CMS as teaching assistants during the day.
- Scholar Leaders are being honored at the Aqua Turf on 5/20. Two 8th-grade students who met all expectations were selected by the teachers and will join 8th-graders selected in other districts from the state of CT.
- This Thursday will mark the first day of SBAC Testing. Dates of each test for CMS: 4/18: ELA, 4/19: ELA, 4/23: Math CAT 1, 4/25: Math CAT 2, 4/30: NGSS (8th Grade), 5/2: NGSS (8th Grade).
- Important Dates:
 - May 2nd – 7th graders will attend a field trip to the Bronx Zoo.
 - May 13th – 8th graders will attend a trip to TPC River Highlands Golf Course for STEM learning & Career Exploration.
 - May 15th Band & Jazz Band Concert @6pm.
 - May 22nd Choir & Select Choir Concert @6pm.
 - May 16th - 5th grade orientation at CMS
 - June 5th - 8th grade field trip to High Meadow
 - June 5th – 6th grade field trip to Quassy
 - CHS Graduation will be Monday, June 10, 2024
 - CMS Ceremony will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024
 - The last day of school will be Thursday, June 13, 2024

b. Youth Services – Sarah presented the following:

- Sarah invited the board to the Connecticut Youth Services Bureau Day at the Capital on Wednesday, April 24, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Power of Parents, Parent Workshop

presentation is at Cromwell High School on Monday, April 22, at 6:00 pm.

- The Mock Crash event will be held for Cromwell High School students at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23. Following the event, MADD will present an assembly.
- The Prevention Specialist job discussed at the previous meeting is open for applications.
- Sarah attended a Connecticut State Opioid Settlement Funds Workshop, where she learned how to best use the settlement funding and report spending to the State of Connecticut.
- Sarah is applying for a State Response to Opioid Mini-Grant. Her application will include a plan for spending the money and letters of support from the community. She explained that the funds would assist in Cromwell Youth Services prevention outreach efforts at the Town of Cromwell summer events if granted.
- The Vaping Survey presented at the previous meeting is on hold from additional responses as it was vulnerable to hacking and artificial responses. She added that she is exploring a more secure internet platform to host the survey.

c. Town Council – Paula Luna reported the following:

- The town budgets are complete and approved by the Board of Finance.
- The West Street sidewalk project is in progress.
- Cromwell Public Works staff are currently working on the spring cleanup of parks.
- The Cromwell Middle School Project is progressing.
- The Cromwell Police Department gained two new officers.

d. Police Department - Det. Tolton reported that this summer, the Cromwell Police Department will be fully staffed. He added that he will be moved to patrol as of July 21 and that the June Youth Advisory Board meeting will be his last. He advised keeping cars and valuables locked up as summer approaches. He reported that Officer Pietraroia will complete his first year as a D.A.R.E. instructor and is receiving positive feedback. He added that D.A.R.E. graduation will be scheduled for May.

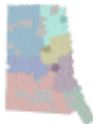
e. Youth—Hailey reported that the Cromwell Middle School play went well. She advised the board that CMS will have a PTO-sponsored dance on April 26, with a theme of the 80s and 90s.

8. CITIZEN REPORT - No report.

9. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION - A discussion was had sharing positive news.

10. ADJOURN - Suzanne Rutner motioned to adjourn at 7:35 pm, seconded by Maggie Schufer.

Jessica Zeedyk, Recording Clerk



YSB Data Submission SY23-24 STATE-WIDE

SY23-24 State Enrollment - 512, 652 students
SY23-24 RACE/ETHNICITY:
White- 46.2%, Hispanic- 31.1%, Black- 12.5%,
Asian- 5.2%, 2 or more Races- 4.7%
SY23-24 FREE/REDUCED LUNCH- 44%
SY23-24 DISABILITIES* 17.9%
SY22-23 CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM- 20%
SY22-23 SUSPENSION/EXPULSION- 7%
*Does not include 504 plans

Collaborators

Compiled from 63 of 70 organizations that provided Collaborator data

2213
Total Collaborator Entries

1827
Unique Collaborators

Most Common Collaborator Categories:

- Business/Community 479
- School 401
- Nonprofits 356
- Town officials and other town departments 229
- Other youth service agencies 202
- Police departments 123

19
different categories of collaborators

21
The median number of collaborators was 21 (same data, not a significantly mean)

Not all collaborators listed were categorized

Tier 1 Programming

Compiled from 63 of 77 organizations that provided Tier 1 Programming data*

Short Term Programs and Participation

- 15 Alcohol and Drug Education programs with 546 participants (median per 20)
- 9 Conflict Resolution programs with 678 participants (median per 50)
- 25 Job skills and Employment Training programs with 338 participants (median per 12)
- 212 Life Skills programs with 2550 participants (median per 10)
- 464 "Other" programs with 14639 participants (median per 12)
- 51 Parent Education programs with 1570 participants (median per 15)

Large Event Participation

- One-time Events 61576 Participants (median per 88)
- Series 14879 Participants (median per 20)

11
The median number of programs per YSB

Short Term- 6
Large Group- 3

Discrepancies in totals are due to categories left blank

Tier 2 Youth (Non-JRB)

Compiled from 60 of 71 organizations that provided Tier 2 Youth data*

8493
Total YOUTH

25
YSBs had over 100 Tier 2 youth

50%
Just over 50% of the youth live with 2 birth parents.
-14% live with a Single Parent and -17% Did Not Report

142
Average youth per YSB was 142
The median was 75

REASON FOR REFERRAL

- Positive Youth Development 6045
- Parenting/family issues 843
- Non-school issues 833
- Other 398
- School issues 438
- Depression 497
- Truancy 222
- Substance abuse 131
- Defiance of school 194
- Homeless 68

REFERRAL SOURCE

- Parent 3977
- School 2117
- Self 1505
- Other 550
- Social Services 71
- DCF 44
- Police 41
- JRB 34
- Court 15

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Individual Therapy 2165
- Summer Programs 1438
- After-School Programs 1356
- Leadership Development 1326
- Life Skills Training 1113

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age of Tier 2 Participant
78% are 8-17 yrs old

Gender	Count
Females	4530
Males	3802
Non-Binary	63
Transgender	49
Did Not Report	29

Ethnicity	Count
Not Hispanic	5609
Hispanic	1815
Did Not Report	1005

Race	Count
White	5066
Did Not Report	1707
Black	900
Multiracial	556
Other	383
Asian	372

*Data was collected from 97 of the 101 YSBs that submit to DCF. Not all YSBs submitted data under each DCF category and in each category some YSBs, utilizing outside data collection systems could not be included in this initial analysis due to currently incompatible data formatting. Future analysis will include all data collected.

Juvenile Review Board

Compiled from 59 of 68 organizations that provided JRB data*

830
Intakes

698
Service Agreements

465
Close-outs

INTAKE

Age of JRB Participant
Majority 12-17 yrs old

Previous Participation	Count
NONE	639
Once	46
Twice	5

Gender

- Males 524
- Females 291
- Non-Binary 7
- Transgender 4

Race

- White 466
- Did Not Report 273
- Black 178
- Multiracial 70
- Other 59

Ethnicity

- Not Hispanic 534
- Hispanic 244
- Did Not Report 47

The majority of JRB participants are not homeless. Of youth that reported on family constellation, ~35% live with a single parent, ~33% with two birth parents, and ~14% live with a step-parent and birth parent.

Service Agreement

698 (Average 13, Median 9)

ATTENDED PANEL?

Yes 619,
No 47

Most Common Services:

- Individual Therapy, Essay, Apology Letter, Other, Community Service

CLOSEOUT

465 (Average 11, Median 6)

COMPLETED RECOMMENDATIONS?

Yes-297,
In progress- 68, No-55

CLOSE-OUT STATUS?

Successful 300

CLOSEOUT TYPE

Letter 155, Face to Face 93, By Phone 60, Other 51

Highest Incident Types- Breath of peace, Disorderly Conduct, Assault, Illegal Drug Possession

- Common Incident Location- School 468, Community 329
- Incident Category- Arrest 527, Non-Arrest 224, Truancy 31
- Common Referral Source- Police 481, Court 176, School 76,
- Reason for Referral- Delinquent Behavior, Defiance of School, Substance Abuse, Truancy

Discrepancies in totals are due to categories left blank