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## Youth Services Advisory Board

### MINUTES

September 17, 2019

**Present:** Katelynn Puorro, Maggie Schufer, Suzanne Rutner, Sarah Alicea, Linda Haddad, Jasmine Jones

**Call to order:** 7:06 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** March, 2019 minutes. Motion to approve by Maggie, second by Suzanne.

### Program Report

**Camp Cromwell:** Katelynn reported on the collaboration between Youth Services and Recreation to offer mentoring and behavior planning to campers in Camp Cromwell. Six campers participated in mentoring and two campers benefitted from behavior intervention plans. Linda shared that students in her grade two classroom were excited to share about their Camp Cromwell experience.

**Big Jam Music Festival:** Katelynn reported on the success of the Big Jam Music Festival, which drew an estimated 600 attendees. The event was a collaboration between Recreation, Cromwell Belden Public Library, Youth Services, and Little Hands in Harmony. The departments aim to hold the event annually. Sarah had attended the event and provided feedback about how her family enjoyed it. This event was a great opportunity for older students needing volunteer hours as well. Katelynn emphasized that the event aligned with the Youth Services goal of providing opportunities to families of all socio-economic backgrounds.

**Stuff the Bus and Back to School:** Katelynn reported on Human Services and Youth Services back to school programs including the new Stuff the Bus event with the Salvation Army in collaboration with Walmart.

### New business

**Library collaboration projects:** Tabled until Emily Mills, Children's Librarian, can join meeting.

**Mentoring Expansion:** Katelynn reported on the expansion of the mentoring program to Cromwell Middle School. The expansion allows for mentees entering sixth grade to continue seeing their mentors. YAB members brainstormed different activities for the middle school students in the program. Jasmine shared about mindful coloring, and members agreed that

hands on activities and projects would be a good alternative to board games. Suggestions included crafts, jewelry making, learning new skills like magic tricks, experiments, etc.

**Cromwell High School new member recruiting:** Katelynn intends to send the YAB flyer to families through Cromwell Schools to increase membership. YAB has been advertised on social media platforms as well. High School students can earn volunteer hours for their active participation on the board.

**2019-2020 School year**

**ECS:** Katelynn met with ECS administration and ECS psychologist to review social work services for the year. There will be a new opportunity to work with students with similar needs in group settings. ECS plans to refer 9 students total. Katelynn is also exploring afterschool programming for ECS. Ideas include Empower, cooking classes, and wellness (children's yoga, etc.).

**WIS:** The mentoring program will be continuing at WIS for the school year. Youth Services is waiting on student permission slips. Youth Services is considering similar after school programming for WIS. Katelynn has referrals for 3 students to receive one-on-one support at WIS, as a continuation of past services and SRT referrals. Katelynn hopes to meet with WIS administration and WIS psychologist about social work services.

**CMS:** Katelynn met with CMS administration and CMS guidance counselor about offering social work services. To begin, Katelynn will run a group for students with anxiety. Katelynn is also working with CMS and Officer Alicea to bring a social media safety assembly to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. For the spring, Katelynn hopes to propose a mental health focused assembly. CMS is interested in a follow up from last year's Life Skills Day.

**CHS:** Katelynn has a meeting scheduled with CHS administration and CHS psychologist about social work services in one-on-one and group settings. Katelynn also hopes to learn more about the Climate Court Committee, which Jasmine served on the previous school year and shared with the group. Katelynn also hopes to work on life skills and mental health programming for CHS.

**Service Review Team:** Updated SRT information was provided to school administration for the new school year. There is one SRT meeting scheduled for the month of October.

**Mixed age programs/events:** Tabled

**Meeting adjourned 8:11 PM.**

**Secretary: Suzanne Rutner**

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Katelynn Puorro**  
**Youth Services Administrator**