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### **Youth Services Advisory Board (YAB)**

#### **Regular Meeting MINUTES**

**Date:** October 15, 2019

1. Call to order: 7:04 PM
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Program Report
  - a. Mentoring Program: Kate reported that mentors have started at CMS. Kate would like mentors to start at WIS ASAP and is hoping to have a meeting about the program soon. Kate reported on the loss of two mentors, but that one new mentor has joined the program. Kate would like to recruit even more new mentors as there is a demonstrated want and need for them. YAB members made many suggestions for places to advertise and recruit new mentors.
  - b. Kin Care: Kin Care started meeting again in September. In October, they welcomed a speaker from DCF.
  - c. Service Review Team: YAB members explained SRT to new members. There has been one SRT referral for the 2019-2020 school year so far. The meeting took place in October and will have a follow-up meeting. Generally, SRT referrals are slow at the start of the school year and pick up in the spring, as happens in neighboring communities as well. Members suggested inviting a backup DCF representative to meetings when the worker assigned to our region cannot attend. Kate also revised SRT materials and procedure and has worked to orient all administration and student support staff about process and changes.
4. New business
  - a. Library collaboration projects: Emily Mills spoke about Extended Study Hours, which Youth Services (CYS) collaborates with Cromwell Belden Public Library (CBPL) for. Emily also introduced a new idea for CBPL and CYS to present a Volunteer Fair for middle and high school students seeking volunteer opportunities. Emily and Kate hope to hold the fair in February, and YAB members gave suggestions for vendors to participate.

- b. Community Education: After the Vaping Forums during the 2018-2019 school year, Kate hopes to continue other community education initiatives. Kate hopes to start with “Hidden in Plain Sight,” which sets up a mock teen bedroom for adults to identify and learn different indicators of alcohol or substance use. YAB members were welcomed to make suggestions for other topics to continue the initiative.
  - c. Teen Center Nights: CYS will be hosting a Teen Center Night in the Cromwell Senior Center. Middle school students are invited to drop in between 6:00-8:30 PM to socialize and participate in a variety of activities. This is also an opportunity for high school students to gain volunteer hours. Kate hopes that Teen Center Night will become a reoccurring program. YAB members shared positive feedback on the initiative and suggestions for activities.
  - d. 2019-2020 School year: Tabled
  - e. Attendance Review Board: Kate discussed the creation of a school attendance review team at Cromwell High School. Kate participates on the team, which had its first meeting in October. YAB members provided positive feedback and hopes that the team continues throughout the year. YAB members also discussed the importance of having attendance review teams at elementary and middle school levels as well. Data supports that children who start having attendance issues at young ages are likely to continue having truancy issues in higher grades.
5. Open forum: Members discussed Cromwell Police participation on the LGBTQ committee. There was agreement that a written mission and summary would be helpful in gaining support.
6. Adjourn: 8:25 PM

**Respectfully submitted,**



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