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Youth Services Advisory Board

MINUTES

January 15, 2019

Present: Katelynn Puorro, Marina Fletcher, Linda Haddad, Ngozi Nnaji, Maggie Shuffer, Kym Banton, Sarah Alicea, Jeannine Marron

Call to order: 7:03 PM

Program Report:

SRT: Katelynn reported that there were no SRT meetings in January. There are SRT meetings set for February.

Kin Care: Kin Care's January meeting featured a speaker from the United Way. Marcia is working on lining up guest speakers for the upcoming months.

Mentoring Program: Katelynn is planning a mentor recognition event for mentors, and mentees and families from ECS and WIS. Ngozi recommended asking mentees what kind of event they would like to share with their mentors and families.

Other: The Family Resource & Preschool Expo will be tomorrow, 1/16/19 at ECS from 5:30-7:00 PM. The event is presented by the Early Childhood/School Readiness Council (Sylvia Webb at ECS) in partnership with Cromwell Youth Services. There will be local agencies and preschools present, including board member, Kym, representing UCFS and gauging interest in a Circle of Security group at ECS.

Old business

Juvenile Review Board: Katelynn will be meeting with consultant Eric Bromley on 1/18/19 to discuss starting Cromwell's JRB and will update the YAB about next steps afterwards. Restorative Practice will be a major framework for the JRB and Kym suggested options for training JRB members.

Life Skills: Members brainstormed various individuals, businesses, and Middlesex Chamber of Commerce members in the community to reach out to for the Life Skills program. Shoprite has been identified for the cooking portion of the series. Planning sessions for the

series will be an open and flexible process in order to accommodate volunteer. The series aims to offer as many unified sessions as possible.

Other: Ngozi shared that Councilwoman Samantha Slade emailed her with an updated member list for the LGBTQ task force. The meeting schedule is TBD.

New business:

Presentation/Assemblies (both student & parent focused): Members discussed some past programming for both school assemblies and parent education presentations. A common problem for parent presentations has been low attendance. Members talked about ways to combat this by offering family focused programming, childcare, and planning around other school events such as middle school dances. Members felt that evenings during the week were probably best for planning versus weekend offerings. Members discussed partnering with the PTO for needs assessments and programming. Topics such as eating disorders (gender specific), vaping, mental health (eliminating stigma), teen dating violence, video gaming, effective consequences, teen self-harm and suicide, and more were introduced. Members thought of creative ways to engage parents, such as using outdoor spaces in nice weather. Members felt that ECS and WIS parents have better engagement, but less obvious needs, whereas CMS and CHS parents have less engagement and more obvious needs. Members talked about programming being tied to extra credit, suspension diversion, or athletics participation to ensure captive audiences for those presenters who require such.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelynn Puorro', written in a cursive style.

**Katelynn Puorro
Youth Services Administrator**