

Youth Service Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018

Present: Maggie, Peter, Det. Bob, Kym, Emily, Eric, Ngozi, Lynn

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Meeting called to order at 7:08pm.

Review of minutes approved.

Administrator's report

Eric reported that the Internet Safety Presentation will be held during the day at WIS on May 24th. The 5th grade will walk over to CMS. The word needs to get out to the parents that this is happening. It is only for the students this time. Ngozi will put it out on the website.

The Mother-Daughter night has been changed to May 17th due to a conflict with orientation.

Eric is trying to coordinate with the Middletown Summer Youth Employment (Lorenzo Marshall.) Applications are due to Eric by June 4th. It is open to ages 14-21. This info needs to be gotten out to the students, maybe through Ms. B, the student council, the secretary (Ms. Fontaine.)

Program report

There was no SRT during April but there is one scheduled for May. An off-site visit was made to a March SRT family to alleviate some stress & provide some info to the student.

Lynn reported the Kin Care was meeting on Thursday with a speaker, Rebecca Lemanski, from Community Health. The group has also been invited to the Plainville "not so empty nest" conference again on May 8th. A senior bus will transport the group.

Eric stated that the E3 (encourage, empower, engage)-Governor's Prevention Partnership won't start until next year, as they are waiting to get all the info.

The JRB is also on the back burner at this time.

The ECS mentor program (started by Sue Schein,) is now under Youth Services.. Eric meets with 4 boys on Wednesday for about a half hour. This program hasn't started at WIS yet since more mentors are needed, especially male. Ngozi will try and get some names for this. Eric is trying to expand this program to afterschool at WIS. Volunteer time is compensated by companies for their employees. HS students would be able to do this & get community service hours. Could this be done afterschool? Need supervision?

Old business

HS students are volunteering/tutoring in collaboration with the Library & Youth Services. It is not just for Cromwell kids. Anyone from 12/13 & up with a parent's approval can do it for 1 hr, during the school year or summertime. There is an application available at the Senior Center or the Library. Emily is hoping to make a database with a list of the volunteers. She is also going to make a resource binder of the jobs available. Any community service or info for the students should be put on their Student News.

There is a Tech program for seniors to help them learn their way around the electronics, info is available through the Senior Center, There is also a program at the HS called IHOPE, which goes to Covenant Village. Maybe we can coordinate all of these together. The students have also volunteered at the Food Pantry.

There are a lot of new people in the town departments and they are trying to all work together.

The town needs a Web page, which will be good for parents. There are 4 different Cromwell group pages on Facebook. There is some resistance from town officials about using social media (especially trollish feedback & comments.) There is insurance for liability. Look at Middletown's excellent webpage (Justin Carbonella.)

New business

Jeannine Marron wants to come sit in/observe during an SRT. Youth Services is going to use her to help children with trauma issues. The Library is trying to set up yoga for kids this summer.

We really need to get more students on this board. Peter, Officer T & Eric are all trying to get more students at these meetings. What is the age requirement? (7th grade & up) Parents need to encourage their child to be on the board. Tell the PTO so they can bring this up at their meetings. This looks good on a resume/college app. If we get enough students, we could have them come on a rotating basis. Why don't we meet during the summer? We lose time to get things started when we wait till September. We agree that we should meet in the summer to address community needs & wants.

Kym is interested to do a Circle of Security group if there is any interest.

Ngozi & Kym to work on getting the LGBTQ program running this summer. Ms. Smolka & Ms. Pavlick want to be involved. There is definitely a need for it. Kids are asking questions & they need support from their parents. Will it be community or school based? There is the Gay/Straight Alliance already at the HS.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bennett

