

CROMWELL YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2018

Present: Eric Richardson, Kym Banton, Lynne Bennett, Jason Tolton, Suzanne Rutner

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Mar 29, 2018 12:00P
JOAN AHLQUIST
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT

Review of Minutes Approved

Administrator's Report:

Eric Richardson discussed that on May 24, 2018, Scott Driscoll from Internet Safety Concepts will be presenting at Cromwell Middle School. Scott will be presenting to fifth and sixth graders. Internet Safety Concepts is a presentation to help students/parents empower themselves to make smart online choices.

Eric Richardson also discussed that Mother/Daughter Night will be held on May 10, 2018, 5:30 – 7:30, in the Arch Room at Town Hall. This program helps open the lines of communication between mothers and daughters regarding the changes of the body and how the young girls will go through puberty. The importance of maintaining a positive body image and how to deal with difficult situations will also be discussed. The program is for girls in grades four and higher, and the youth will be accompanied by their mothers/guardians. Karen Bosworth, Cromwell Middle School Health Educator, will facilitate this presentation. Currently six families have registered.

Eric Richardson discussed the dangers of Vaping and is still working on a Vaping presentation for the students of Cromwell. Eric received vaping posters from the Wheeler Clinic Clearinghouse, and gave posters to the Karen Bosworth, Health Educator, and Officer Tolton. Officer Tolton was able to put the poster up in the high school. Eric also put a poster in the Human Services and Youth Services.

Program Report:

Kym Banton talked about the Service Review Team (SRT) and would like to add more members to broaden participation and give more direction. She also discussed adding legal representation. Officer Jason Tolton asked if Hartford (Choice) student are eligible for SRT process. Kym Banton and Eric Richardson both stated that the Hartford students who attend Cromwell schools are eligible for the Cromwell SRT.

Lynn Bennett conversed about Kin Care. Lynn reported that February's meeting was grandparents/caregivers only which consisted of networking and supporting. She also reported March meeting consisted of presenters/physicians from Middlesex Hospital Primary Care. The physicians presented health related advice for families. It was also stated that Amy Saada, Cromwell Human and Senior Services Director, reached out to the Kin Care group regarding a grant that would benefit Kin Care. The group provided Amy Saada with suggestions of needs for the grant such as support the financial needs of grandparents raising grandchildren. Next meeting will be on April 19, 2018 and the guest speaker will be Rebecca Lemanski, Program Manager of Parenting Supportive Services at Community Health Center in Middletown. Kym asked if Kin Care would be interested in "Circle of Security" presentation for Grandparents (7 week program that can be done during day when Kin Care meets.) Eric Richardson stated that Youth Services would want Kym to present Circle of Security to parents in need of parenting assistance as well. Eric stated that Cromwell Schools have reported that parents are seeking assistance in parenting skills.

Eric Richardson talked about bringing Encourage, Empower, Engage (E3) Program to Cromwell High School. The program is peer to peer, substance abuse program that promotes healthy choices and health decision

making. The program includes a pre-packaged web-based curriculum. E3 is an Initiative of Governor's Prevention Partnership.

Eric will sit in on Middletown Juvenile Review Board (JRB) to observe their JRB process. Middletown uses ASI assessment tool for JRB clients. Middletown JRB also uses the restorative justice model that Eric is interested in. JRB is usually for first time juvenile offenders. Cromwell Youth have the ability to be referred to Middletown JRB until Cromwell JRB is up and running

Old Business:

Eric Richardson will attempt to bring an anxiety presentation to Cromwell schools and families next year.

Board members agreed that the advisory board need more student participation.

New Business:

Eric Richardson will be collaborating with Emily Mills, Children's Assistant, at Cromwell Belden Public Library. Eric and Emily will be putting together a volunteer program for Cromwell students to complete their community service hours that are required by the Cromwell schools. Eric and Emily will also be working on a Tutoring Program where high school students will tutor younger students at the library.


Eric Richardson has been meeting with Edna C. Stevens Elementary School students on Wednesdays. He is currently meeting with four students. Eric is there as support for students who have some difficulties. Eric will also be working with students at Woodside Intermediate School.

Eric mentioned that Sue Schein helped start up a mentor program last year at Woodside Intermediate School. Youth Services will now oversee this mentor program. Eric reported that he has relayed this information to Woodside school staff.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted:

Suzanne Rutner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric R.', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.