

Cromwell Youth Service Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018

Present: Amy Saada, Ngozi Nnagi, Maggie Schufer, Marina Fletcher, Suzanne Rutner, Georgia Mikan, Officer Tolton, Peter Czajkowski

1. Meeting called to order at 6:15pm.

2. Administrators Report:

June meeting should have elected officers, will be tabled for October when new Youth Services Admin is in place. In the absence of a Youth Services Administrator, Amy Saada has attended the Middlesex County Youth Services Board of Directors Meeting. A few items from the meeting include:

CYSA conference is on October 4th

YSB Annual Data Collection is due September 21st

TOW Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven is willing to provide 2 days of free training to provide tools to JRB's on restorative practices with the intent of "train the trainer" so that we can continue to educate/train board members in the future.

October 18th a truancy expert, Dr. Scott Hannan will be speaking to YS staff, location to be determined.

3. Program Report:

A. SRT- None scheduled for September

B. Kin Care- Group met this month after having the summer off. Future meetings will be moved to Wednesday's with next meeting being October 10th at 12:00pm.

C. Edna C. Stevens School Support-Eric was mentoring 4 students last year and we will seek to continue this service this school year.

D. Mentor Program- Dr. Mentor provided a new mentor orientation on September 5th. 3 new mentors attended as well as returning mentors. Mrs. Ferris was also in attendance and will be working to assign the new mentors with children in need. We are seeking additional mentors and would like to have college students, police, fire and other diverse representation including more males available to work with students.

E. Summer Programs- There was a Summer Babysitting/Home Alone Course with 11 attendees.

F. Life Skills Program- When new Youth Services Admin. starts, we will work to get this up and running with such topics as : balancing checkbooks/accounts, how to prepare simple meals, interview techniques, hygiene (shaving, tie ties, deoderant etc).

G. Volunteer Program: Working to get this program up and running, but currently the Library is the starting point. They have the volunteer applications and is keeping a log of volunteer opportunities. We need student volunteers for Senior Center Programs/Activities, for Youth Services for community service opportunities, at the library and more.

H. Other-Suzanne Rutner would like seniors to come to her school for reading with the children and music programs. This intergenerational relationship is beneficial to all.

5. Old Business:

Ngozi spoke in support of a much needed LGBT Resource in town. She stated she spoke with Councilwoman Samantha Slade who is in support of creating a committee. The group of individuals would serve on a committee and would work to establish resources for the LGBT community. There was discussion that the Gay Straight Alliance is at the high school, but currently nothing in place in the middle school. Ngozi will work with the council on establishing a committee and a safe space.

6. New Business:


a. Youth Services Administrator interviews have been completed and new hire will be starting before the end of September.

b. Proactive Parenting -A four part series Parenting Course is available free of charge in Middlefield and open to public/Cromwell Residents.

c. Officer Tolton stated there is a need for a middle school program to address being kinder and working /understanding those with special needs. Discussion on a possible curriculum available called, "Choose Love Movement" and it can be used for grades Pre-K through 12th. Officer Tolton will do a 10 week DARE program for the Middle School.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Saada