



41 West Street, Cromwell CT 06416  
860-632-3448



### Youth Services Advisory Board

#### MINUTES

November 20, 2018

**Present:** Katelynn Puorro, Peter Czajkowski, Marina Fletcher, Linda Haddad, Ngozi Nnaji, Georgia Mikan, Lynn Bennet, Officer Jason Tolton, Jeannine Marron

**Call to order:** 7:04 PM

#### **Program Report:**

**SRT:** One SRT meeting was held in October. There were no SRT meetings in November. Cromwell Youth Services has been notified that there is parental consent obtained by Cromwell High School staff for a December SRT meeting, and is trying to establish contact for a second one. The SRT core member list has been revised and updated since Eric left and Katelynn took over.

**Kincare:** Kincare meetings have resumed for the year. In October, Jeannine Marron visited the group to talk about self-care and establishing self-care routines. The members participated in a meditative mindfulness activity, which they enjoyed. In November, the members welcomed Doug Sienna from the Town of Cromwell tax office. The group is planning to host a visit from Judge Marino for the December meeting.

**Edna C. Stevens School Support:** Katelynn met with Edna C. Stevens Assistant Principal, Karyn Wyskiel, and School Psychologist, Alicia Butler to discuss continuing one-on-one mentoring support for a handful of students. Eric had previously provided this service, and it was seen as beneficial. Katelynn, Karyn, and Alicia discussed topics such as school appropriate behaviors, social skills, and positive role model support as areas to focus on. The school is working to identify students, speak with guardians, and have permission forms signed so that Katelynn may begin working with students on 11/29/18.

**WIS Mentoring Program:** The mentoring program began after a kick-off breakfast in mid-November. One mentor had to discontinue, but a new male mentor has joined the program. Katelynn has also sent applications to two potential new mentors. One has completed the paperwork and Katelynn will meet with the applicant pending background checks.

**E3 Program:** Cromwell High School administration received approval from the Superintendent for the E3 program after Principal DiFiore met with Katelynn, Officer Alicea, and Dr. Speno from CPAC. E3 is a peer-to-peer substance prevention program Life Skills Program. CPAC members will train CAYAK and NHS students on 11/29/18 to be peer-to-peer leaders and facilitate the curriculum with the freshman class.

**Life Skills Program:** Katelynn listed ideas for a life skills program: Interviewing & job hunting, Finances & budgeting, basic cooking skills, first aid & household management, automotive basics, and mental health first-aid. YAB members mentioned various local business who may be willing to help administer the program. Ngozi spoke about "JA for a day" in partnership with Citizens Bank. Ngozi discussed the benefits of taking the program district-wide. She shared that there are different sections in the curriculum and that it could possibly be adjusted to fit the format of the Life Skills Program. Katelynn emphasized that the Life Skills Program was introductory in nature, a sort of compilation of "101" sessions, and not meant to be too intensive in nature. Peter shared that some of the Cromwell High School gym classes are learning first aid but that it was a good Life Skills topic. Peter suggested calling a session on cleaning, first aid, and hygiene "basic household management." There was discussion about who was the target audience for the program. Some members felt that these topics were things that youth should learn at home, but it was pointed out that unfortunately youth don't always learn the suggested skills from caregivers for a variety of reasons. The group agreed that dealing with stress, anxiety, and depression would be beneficial. Cromwell High School has great home economics offerings so sessions proposed for Basic Cooking Skills may be better allocated for a different topic. Peter suggested matching topics to months for easy recall, ex: "Financial February." There was discussion around multiple sessions for the same topic across the span of a month. Perhaps interviewing and job hunting may only take one or two sessions, while finances and budgeting could take 4 weekly sessions.

**Other:** Katelynn shared that shopping for Santa's Workshop would take place Monday, 11/26/18 with Cromwell High School Student Council commission chairs. Wrap Night will be 11/29/18 with all of Student Council at Town Hall.

#### **Old business**

**2019 Meeting Dates:** Members approved 2019 Meeting Dates, continuing with the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

**Election of Officers:** Lynn Bennet will serve as secretary, others will serve in her absence.

#### **New business:**

**Dinner & Docs:** Katelynn introduced the idea for a documentary film series aimed at youth and their parents titled Dinner & Docs. There was discussion about timing for this, with ideas between 6:00-6:30 PM. Guests would enjoy dinner and babysitting for younger children could be potentially provided by Cromwell High School students. Members felt that an hour-hour and a half would be a good time frame. Ideally a panel conversation would take place afterwards. Ngozi mentioned PTO support. Katelynn plans to meet with Cromwell PTO's but had trouble connecting with CMS PTO. Ngozi was able to contact CMS PTO members to facilitate contact with Cromwell Youth Services.

**CPAC meeting:** Dinner & Docs would be presented in collaboration with CPAC. Other partnership opportunities included diversion programs, poster campaigns, and vaping programs. Linda mentioned a positive school climate initiative at WIS, "Kindness is Cool," which a poster campaign could help support.

**LGBTQ Commission:** The Town Council approved the formation of a LGBTQ+ Task Force. The Mayor is looking for volunteer members. Ngozi shared that a Task Force would be accessible by all ages for a variety of situations. Katelynn mentioned that a Task Force would also be better equipped to address complicated areas of intersectionality.

**JRB:** Cromwell Youth Services plans to start the Juvenile Review Board process after the holidays. Katelynn asked if there were suspension monitors in the school. Officer Tolton talked about the suspension process in Cromwell Schools. Jeannine proposed meditation and mindfulness as part of the suspension process. Linda discussed mindfulness practices in the elementary schools. Katelynn expressed interest in mindfulness/meditation as part of the JRB process. Cromwell Youth Services plans to establish the JRB with a restorative justice framework. Cromwell Youth Services is looking to connect with other potential JRB members such as an attorney and/or mediation experts. So far, identified parties include SRO's, police, school administration, DCF, juvenile probation, and pastoral services.

**Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**Katelynn Puorro  
Youth Services Administrator**