



41 West Street, Cromwell CT 06416
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Youth Services Advisory Board

MINUTES

December 18, 2018

Present: Katelynn Puorro, Marina Fletcher, Suzanne Rutner, Ngozi Nnaji, Maggie Shuffer, Kym Banton, Detective Bialko, Jeannine Marron

Call to order: 7:02 PM

Program Report:

SRT: There was one SRT meeting in December. The family left with many resources. SRT referrals have been down in both Cromwell and Middletown. Katelynn reported that other youth services bureaus in Region III are noticing this trend as well. Kym explained the SRT process, and Ngozi spoke about broadening community awareness around the process to increase referrals. It was confirmed that families can self-refer for this process in addition to school referrals.

Kincare: Kin Care member, Lynn, was absent from the meeting but emailed an update. Kin Care members and special guests enjoyed a Holiday luncheon. Ann Hale and Judge Marino visited with the members. Judge Marino provided advice and education to members.

Edna C. Stevens School Support & WIS Mentoring Program: Katelynn has begun working with 6 students at ECS. The WIS program has recruited one new mentor. The new mentor should be starting in the new year. Youth Services is always looking to expand the program. Mentors volunteer for one hour each week, meeting with students at WIS. Word of mouth tends to be the best recruiting method.

E3 Program: E3 peer-to-peer facilitators/leaders (mainly upperclassmen) have been trained to present the E3 prevention curriculum to freshmen connections groups. The program will start with an introduction on 12/20/18, and the curriculum lessons will begin when students return from winter break.

Santa's Workshop: Took place on 12/12/18, student council raised and donated \$1,400.00 to the event. Families enjoyed entertainment, treats, and of course Santa!

Old business

Juvenile Review Board: DCF and juvenile probation representatives have been identified. Katelynn plans to meet with Erica Bromley from CYSA about starting an as-needed JRB program. Kym emphasized the benefits of starting with a restorative justice framework. The TOW Youth Justice Institute may be able to provide training. The JRB will also need non-SRO police, someone with experience in mediation, possibly an attorney, and hopefully the Cromwell Schools suspension monitor. Ideally there will be 7-8 core members.

New business:

Family Resource/Preschool Expo: Taking place on 1/16/19 at ECS. This event is presented by Cromwell Youth Services and Cromwell Early Childhood/ School Readiness Council. It will be from 5:30-7:00 PM. Community based resources will be represented including town agencies such as Human Services, Recreation, and Cromwell Belden Public Library. Katelynn asked for any community agency suggestions that members may have.

Other: Ngozi asked about students' role on the board. Currently there are 4 Cromwell High School students who have been attending meetings. Students' active involvement was emphasized. Katelynn stated the youth input was valuable when designing presentations and programs for the community. Discussion took place about how the meeting could be better structured to include more active participation by youth, and about an open dialogue format. Ngozi plans to invite more youth to the meeting. Katelynn stated that there is a certain structure the meeting has to follow, but that there was room for open forum conversation as well.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelynn Puorro', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Katelynn Puorro
Youth Services Administrator**