

AYSAB/ LPC/ COC

March 5, 2012

Regular Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Present:

Mihaela Fodor, Avon Youth Services Coordinator

Beckie Sahl, Avon LPC Chair/ COC Member/ Parent

Vernetta Jefferson, COC Member/ Parent

Marybeth LeFevre, AHS Teacher/ AHS LEO Club Coordinator/ LPC Member

Robin Piper, COC Member/ Parent

Lori Stanczyc, LPC/ COC/ Parent- Excused

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Mihaela Fodor presented the budget for the remainder of the year and provided an update on the progress of the YSB programs, especially the *Peer Mentoring/ Tutoring Program* between the high school and the middle school. There are presently 35 students in the program. Marybeth LeFevre AHS teacher, and Kathy Marzano, AMS School Counselor, are the program co-facilitators. Mihaela Fodor also shared about the 500 cards for the elderly, which the elementary schools in town created during the *Intergenerational Valentine's Day Event*, sponsored and coordinated by the Avon Youth Services Bureau.

Vernetta Jefferson and Mihaela Fodor briefly discussed the *Valentine's Day Social Event/ Dance* for the middle school students, held on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the Senior Center.

Beckie Sahl expressed her disappointment regarding the planning, organizing, and advertising for this event, emphasizing that better communication among our leadership community components (YSB/ LPC/ COC) is needed with future youth activities, for better results and less frustration.

Also, everyone agreed to ask the schools about their protocol for sponsored events, in order to improve communication between the Town and the Board of Education. G. Mala, Superintendent of Schools, and the Principal at the participating school are to be consulted first, and their expertise and advice are to be considered before any planning with the school, or advertising for the event.

Vernetta Jefferson expressed her concern in planning any paintball activities for the Youth Action Council. She does not consider such activities appropriate and safe for our children. She reminded us that Tom Steen from CASAC expressed the same concern in a previous meeting.

- III. Beckie Sahl informed the meeting participants about a new parenting program she would like to implement in collaboration with Lora Knee, AHS Social Worker. They hope to develop six parenting sessions, in order to educate Avon parents about correlations between teen brain development and adolescent behavior, with an emphasis on the decision making process.

Vernetta Jefferson and Marybeth LeFevre advised about steps she might consider before presenting the program to the AHS administration. They further discussed why they felt that this program had little chance for implementation in April, or May of 2012. Also, they suggested that a partnership with other organizations, like the AHS PTO, would be beneficial in attempting to gather support for the program.

Beckie Sahl, also shared about exploring a future collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League, regarding tolerance programs, which would support the AHS efforts to improve school climate. As the program is very expensive, she thought costs could be possibly cut by eliminating the program's motivational speaker. Also, she thought that getting community organizations supporting education involved- the Rotary Club, the Avon Education Foundation, might be beneficial.

Beckie Sahl talked about the Pre-Prom week COC programs as well. She would like to organize the Slogan Contest and the Chalk Walk, as she previously did. Also, she expressed her opinion that the crashed car activity should be considered again, despite the fact that Jeff Sunblade, Assistant Principal, does not feel comfortable with it in the present AHS context. Robin Piper, parent, agreed with Beckie and supported her initiative.