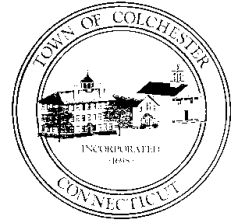




Colchester Youth FIRST

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 205, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

P: 860-537-7255 F: 860-537-1731 E: youthservices@colchesterct.gov



Youth Services' Youth First Coalition December Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 4, 2013 – 5:00 pm – YOUTH CENTER

Voting Members: Robert Suchecki, Kathy Wonderly, Lorraine Marvin, and Gina Ebbeling

Voting Members Absent: Linda Bromley, Gail Baxter, Pamela Scheibelein

Non Voting Members present: Linda Iacobellis

Non Voting Members Absent: Brittney Berube, Chris Bennett, Meghan Hickey, Barbara Gilbert

Others Present: Valerie Geato, Jennifer Sloat, Ashlee Denny, Josh Vinoski, Rob Tarlov, Denise Mizla, Robert Maynard, Nicole Lenane, Karissa Vincent, Sabrina McFarlane

1. Call Meeting to Order: Robert Suchecki called the meeting to order at 5:02
2. Public comments: None
3. Program Updates: Director Geato, Program Coordinator Jennifer Sloat
 - a. Open Youth Center – Steady attendance between 30-70 kids on Mondays and Wednesdays
 - b. Youth Force Group has been busy working on projects. They made fleece blankets for the SHIFT Scoliosis Foundation that sends blankets to kids that have had spinal surgery to correct the scoliosis. They also made chocolate covered pretzels, cookies and chips to sell at the Holiday Homecoming on the town green on Dec. 7th, 2013. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to the Nothing But Nets charity that provides bug netting for families in South Africa to prevent malaria.
 - c. Youth Action Council made two blankets for the Soldier's Angels and had been making loom bracelets that are being sold for the Nothing But Nets charity.
 - d. Upcoming Community Conversations: Cyber Safety on January 14, 2014 to educate parents on the dangers of the internet from cyber bullying to stranger danger.
 - e. Trainings – Val, Jen and Ashlee will be participating in In Her Shoes training on domestic violence in teenage relationships.
 - f. Girl 2 Girl (G2G) – is a mentoring program that includes 60 students from Bacon Academy, EO Smith and Old Saybrook High School and 20 adults mentor that met on November 14, 2013. The event was very successful and everyone was surprised to see how well everyone opened up and contributed to the activities.

- g. FWSN (Family with Service Needs) expanded to Bacon Academy & WJJMS to discuss cases that include truancy and defiance of school rules. Cases from Bacon Academy has been very successful.
- 4. 2014 Goals “Year of the Family” Update –
 - a. April 26 – Community Clean Up – focus on Youth Center
 - b. May 3– Team Obstacle course/family fun to partner with Parks & Rec. Survivor theme and include puzzles and activities for the younger crowd.
 - c. June – Tie dye fest
- 5. Community Conversations Update
 - a. Weeding Out the Facts – 11/8/13 – very successful, over 200 people attended
 - b. Cyber Safety - Parent session – 1/14/14 at Bacon Academy, student sessions will be held during school hours for grades 7-12.
- 6. Drug Paraphernalia – SERAC has steps to follow to get businesses to stop selling drug paraphernalia. Pamela Scheibelein going to take the lead to establish a plan on how to effectively reach out to the businesses. Encourage local business to act responsibly and not sell these items to the community. Rob Suchecki is going to reach out to East Lyme to see what steps they took to establish the community ordinance. A local mother visited a location that is selling the paraphernalia and asked the business to stop selling the paraphernalia and was unable to
- 7. Other: Gale Baxter has missed more than 5 consecutive meetings and due to Youth First’s bylaws is no longer an appointed member.
- 8. Adjourned at 5:53.