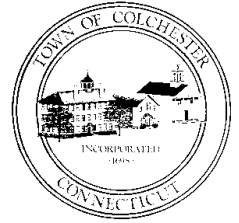




# Colchester Youth FIRST

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## YOUTH FIRST COALITION March 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes Location: Colchester Youth Center Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Voting members present: Pamela Scheibelein, Lorraine Marvin, Kathy Wonderly, Linda Bromley, Shirley Ellis

Voting members absent: Robert Suchecki, Gina Ebbeling

Non voting members present: Meghan Hickey, Christopher Bennett, Barbara Gilbert

Non voting members absent: Linda Iacobellis, Brittany Berube

Others present: Valerie Geato, Jennifer Martino, Ashlee Denny, Jordan Spalla, Hanna Moore, Josh Vinoski, Denise Mizla (BOS), Melanie Gaudette, and Michael Voiland (BOE)

1. Call meeting to order: Kathy Wonderly meeting called to order at 5pm.
2. Public comments: None
3. Program updates:
  - a. Youth Force Group has been busy with Nike Reuse-a-Shoe collection and a Hearts, Hands & Homes butterfly project and birthday supply drive to create awareness of the over 4000 foster kids in Connecticut.
  - b. Youth Action Council completed the Teens for Jeans drive and collected almost 300 pairs of Jeans and participated in Shift Scoliosis' Wrapped with Love project for scoliosis surgery patients.
  - c. Boys Council: Last meeting on 3/6/14 to Toyo Hibachi & Laser tag. It was a successful program for 9 boys to help them develop social skills and relationship building.
  - d. Girl's Circle: group to begin at the end of March. WJJMS guidance councilors are currently reaching to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls for participants.
  - e. Friday Fun Nights: Upcoming trip is 5 Guys and a Film on March 21, 2014
  - f. April break trips just announced: Teens in Action – Gemma Moran CT Foodshare, Berlin Bonanza, Sky's the Limit and a trip to the Science Center.
  - g. Summer 2014 – planning to begin in the next few weeks.
  - h. Upcoming school based programs:
    - Club RAP (Reaching All Potential) for grades 6-8: The Wm. J. Johnston Middle School is offering a program called Club RAP for up to 20 students in grades 6-8. Students who are experiencing frequent discipline issues will be invited to participate. Participants will receive a supported setting two days per week to work on life skill development, social skills and homework

completion. Snacks will be provided and 4 teachers will be facilitating the program.

- Bacon Academy Mentoring (BAM) for grades 9-12: Up to 20 students will be selected by the Bacon Academy Student Teacher Assistance Team (STAT) based upon disciplinary referrals during the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year. Those students will be provided with an after-school mentoring program to include:
    - i. 1. Academic monitoring/assistance
    - ii. 2. Group & Individual counseling
    - iii. 3. Community service/service learning experiences
    - iv. 4. Fieldtrips for group building & career planning
  - i. QPR – suicide prevention mentoring – Val & Jen are offering a community training on 3/12/14 at the Youth Center.
  - j. 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 again on February 7, 2014. The event was very successful and everyone was surprised to see how well everyone opened up and contributed to the activities.
4. Other business: Ashlee Denny has been promoted from Administrative & Program Coordinator to Program Coordinator. We have been interviewing candidates and are finalizing the hiring process for the Administrative & Program Coordinator position.
5. 2014 Year of the Family
- a. Community Clean Up:
  - b. Family team obstacle/Fun Mudder – moved to October
  - c. Park & Rec- Val to speak with Rob Suchecki
  - d. Tie Dye Fest – June 14, 2014 – Summer Palooza,
    - i. Dunk tank
    - ii. Bounce House
    - iii. Bracelet idea—all inclusive with bracelet or price per item
    - iv. Reserve part of the green in case we expand with additional items
    - v. Ice Cream – Ben & Jerry, possible other donors
  - e. Fund raising ideas: American Girl Doll Tea
6. Local Business Sales of Drug Paraphernalia – moved to April Agenda
7. Members with upcoming expirations on June 30, 2014: Gina Ebbeling, Shirley Ellis, Robert Suchecki and Kathy Wonderly
8. Adjourn: Kathy Wonderly motioned to adjourn at 5:45, seconded by Pam Scheibelein.