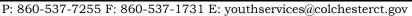


Colchester Youth FIRST

127 Norwich Avenue, Suite 205, Colchester, Connecticut 06415





Youth Services Advisory Board/ Youth FIRST Coalition November 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes Location: Colchester Youth Center

Time: 5:00-6:30pm

Voting members present: Lorraine Marvin, Gina Ebbeling, Kathy Wonderly, Robert Suchecki,

Ginnie Streppa

Voting members absent: Linda Bromley, Josh Vinoski, Shirley Ellis

Non voting members present: Barbara Gilbert

Non voting members absent: Christopher Bennett, Linda Iacobellis

Others present: Valerie Geato, Amber Albee, Rob Tarlov (BOF), Michael Voiland (BOE),

Denise Mizla (BOS), Tricia Dean

- 1. Call meeting to order at 5:06 pm
- 2. No public comments
- 3. No program update questions. Reminder- the Girls on Track Ugly Sweater Run in Hartford will take place December 6th.
- 4. Trick or Trunk was successful. Elyse and her husband did a wonderful job creating the theme "Don't get caught in the web of drugs". They handed out healthy childhood development informational pamphlets and lollipops with the slogan "say boo to drugs".
- 5. Recap Community Conversation
 - a. Roughly 75 people were in attendance. It was received well by all.
 - b. We would like to do another community conversation possibly this coming spring stemming off of this one, but having a separate component for parents and students. Mary Marcucio would be coming back to address the parents and Stonington Institute would be speaking with the students.
 - c. The video that was shown was a great tool that the school has expressed interest in using in health classes. There is a possibility of a 90 minute program being developed between the schools and youth services, and based on the topics that were covered.
 - d. Our goal is to continue the conversation that has been started, with possibly 2 more in the series this year.
 - e. Another topic that we may branch out to is cutting and self-harm. Program coordinator, Jen Martino will be attending a presentation on the topic soon and will be reporting back what she learns.
 - f. We want to bring awareness to issues that parents either don't know the prevalence of or don't know how to handle on their own.

- g. Rob Suchecki also suggested exploring the topic of online bullying and racial targeting. Barbara Gilbert commented that as the community is becoming more diverse, there is a lack of understanding and people aren't talking about it because they don't think they have to.
 - 1. There is a group in the schools called the Positive Climate Group, Valerie Geato offered any help that Youth Services can give in their attempt to combat and address these issues.
- 6. 2014-2015 LPC Grant funds will be used for:
 - a. Community Conversations
 - b. Community wide Prescription Drug campaign to expand from kids to also include parents and seniors- provide education to keep pills locked up/ safe.
 - c. Expanding our use of the lawn signs- link to local prevention sources
 - d. Public awareness of the drop off attached to pharmacy pick up bags
- 7. Board of Selectmen has approved our board. We will be working on new appointments and everyone will need to be sworn in.
- 8. Mom's Club tag sale made a generous donation of over \$400 to the Youth Center, and our election day bake sale also raised around \$400 for Youth Services scholarships and building improvements.
- 9. Reminder- Everyone bring snacks for our December meeting!
- 10. Discussion of next month's agenda
- 11. Adjourn at 5:51 pm