

**Newtown Youth and Family Services
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
February 22, 2016 – 6:30 PM
15 Berkshire Rd, Sandy Hook, CT**

Members Present: Don Ramsey, Ashley Mele, Sheilah Krasnickas, Mackenzie Page Rosalie Newman, David Moseman, Gavin Arneth, Kristin Connors, William Chapman, and Ashley Solomon.

Members Not Present: Karen White, Dean Pinto, Jim Wallace, Karen White, Tom Murtha, Mel Kawakami, Jesse Rosenschein, Susan Giglio, Rick Child and Kathy McCleary.

Staff Members Present: Candice Bohr, Matt Ariniello

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by David Moseman.

a) Roll Call- The roll of the Board of Directors was taken by signing in and a quorum was established.

b) Approval of January Minutes – Don Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Gavin Arneth and passed unanimously.

2. Chairwoman's Report

a) The Holiday festival was successful.

b) Fairfield County giving day is March 10, 2016.

1. 24 hours to raise money for non-profit organizations in Fairfield County. Online there is a minimum \$10 donation. It is more about the amount of donors instead of amount of money. There are prizes and giveaways all day. We are trying to win the prize from Midnight to 1 A.M. – which ever nonprofit has the most donors during that time will win a prize.

c) Danbury Titans Hockey Team is having a game and 20% of benefits will go to NYFS.

d) Barnwood Grille in Newtown is giving 10% of proceeds from 5-9pm to NYFS on March 10.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) Last month we took board surveys and sent them to a board consultant, Michael Davidson. He will be discussing the results with Jesse and Candice. We will plan a board retreat for June 2016.

- b) We have eliminated the position staff-programming manager. We now have a project manager who will do operations as well as programming. Position at the high school was possibly eliminated but the position will be staying. This position will remain in the budget
- c) We were asked to develop a 4th age group for autism groups.
- d) Grants
 1. We did not receive the building grant. We are looking into a plan b. We received our grant grade sheet back and we did well in categories but other categories don't apply to us so we cannot get high points in categories that do not apply to us.
 2. The VOCA grant from Office of Victim Services will send out the recipients for the grant in March 2016. This grant is for individuals that were in 3 categories, sexual abuse, child abuse, domestic violence and other. 60% of our current staff will be covered by this grant.
- e) Safety Town is now up to 3 weeks. We have a waiting list. Danbury approached us to bring this into Danbury. We are sending in a proposal for a location at Stew Leonard's, which would allow us to open it up to more towns as well as give us more space since space is limited here.
- f) The Prevention Council is comprised of local community groups. NPC has been in existence for 30 years. Its focus is to decrease substance abuse in town. We do have staff that participates with the council. Looking to continue good communication between groups.

4. Finance and Treasurer's Report

- a) We should be thinking about putting a plan in place for the future. We discussed multiple future difficulties.
- b) We are under budget.
- c) Financial is more of a long-term discussion rather than how we are doing right now.

5. Personnel Committee

- a) No report

6. Fundraising Committee

- a) No Report

7. Strategic Planning

- a) No Report

8. PQI

- a) We had an employee annual survey and 27/32 responded. Most asked for more feedback on how they're doing. We have done some retreats. May is mental health month so we will have things planned for this month for the staff.
- b) Concerns have been made about the new Sandy Hook school and how to respond to going to the new school. There is anxiety on how clients respond to going to the new school.

c) The waiting list is getting higher. They are offered the next available appointment but if they cannot take it they are immediately told the length of time they need to wait.

9. Nominating

No report

10. Old Business

No report

11. New Business

a) No report

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Sheilah Krasnickas made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mackenzie Page and passed unanimously.

Our next meeting will be March 28, 2016 at 6:30pm at 13 Berkshire Rd.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ashley Mele, Secretary