

Youth Commission Minutes September 15, 2011

Attending: June David-Fors, Sylvia Pabreza, Joan Clementi, Chris Benested, Lori Mott, Pamela Naab (intern). Youth Liaisons: Suhayla Islam and P.J. Schwalm

A motion to open the meeting was made by Lori Mott and seconded by Joan Clementi at 7:13 pm.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 pm.

A motion to approve the minutes from May with suggested changes was made by Joan Clementi and seconded by Lori Mott.

Introductions were made and a welcome was extended to our new Youth Liaison, P.J. Schwalm.

Director's Report:

- The Econo Lodge is now housing more than 30 homeless families. Barbara Goodman, Director of Student Support Services, and Laurie Pardee, head nurse from the Northborough Public Schools, brought clergy and other community members together to organize outreach efforts. Throughout Massachusetts, there are 1700 homeless families living in hotels.
- MetroWest Community Health Care Foundation:
 - Childhood Obesity Implementation Grant Update:
 - 15 community gardens were planted at Valentine Road. There was a great deal of interest and there is a wait list for gardens.
 - The Zeh School has taken a leadership role in the Childhood Obesity grant initiative. They have implemented the Take 10 Program with younger students
 - The next step: Jamie, the Town Health Agent, will be meeting with local restaurants to discuss putting healthy items on menus
 - Jamie is also working with a sub-committee of the wellness committee in the schools.
 - Northborough Extended Day Program and the Recreation Department are implementing healthy snack policies.
 - The Fuel Assistance program will begin in October.
 - Several renewals have been done over the summer
 - 137 families received assistance last year from Northborough

- Graduate Intern- Pamela Naab been here a week. She is working with four families. She has experience with both after school programs and school systems.
- Updates from Students:
 - ARHS won its first football game and there seems to be a good amount of school spirit. College planning is underway for seniors.
 - At St. John's, the incoming freshmen have made a great transition. Guidance is strong and there are student tutors that are available for students who are struggling academically. The NHS organized the tutoring program, and the tutoring counts as service hours.
 - P.J. mentioned Project Goal from Providence, RI. This program provides mentoring and homework help to students in need followed by soccer games that are motivating for completing work.
 - Continued discussion about helping the homeless families included - mention of Mrs. Stotz who organizes the Peer Tutoring program at ARHS. It was also mentioned that Raytheon sends volunteers to tutor in schools.

Other Business:

Update on client activity- After a relatively quiet summer, there have been more contacts for services. There is not a waiting list at present.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joan Clementi at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Chris Benested.