

WaylandCares Review Committee - DRAFT Minutes for Oct 30, 2013

Location: School Committee meeting room

Called to order at 4:57pm by Chairperson Gail Shapiro

Committee Members In Attendance: Gail Shapiro, Leslie Corner, Shirley Jacobson, Joe Barrett, Katie Lee;  
Selectman Liaison: Ed Collins

Observers: FinCom Liaison Nancy Funkhouser, Heidi Heilman, Betsy Meindl, Gil Wolin, and Margo Melnicove

Town Officials: Dr. Paul Stein, School Superintendent, Cynthia Hill, Vice Chair of the Board of Health, Joseph Karbowski, Board Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee, which oversees Wayland Youth and Family Services

**Dr. Paul Stein, School Superintendent**

Leslie framed the committee's question for Dr. Stein as to how we are looking at options for WaylandCares to be housed possibly within a current town department.

Dr. Stein: Agrees that WaylandCares has done good work that is important to the health of the community; "the social norms campaign especially." Does it make sense to have it under the school department? SADD, which is housed at the school, has been shored up by the work of WaylandCares. Issue for him, is that the work of WaylandCares is not a primary function of the school. Thus, if WaylandCares budget is under the school budget, he would honestly worry about it being cut in the future from the budget if he had to hone down on the primary mission of the school which is teaching. He does worry about such an important community organization coming under the schools if its budget is under stress in the future. He is concerned about taking on something that involves working with more than just kids which is he is not sure would match. He sees WaylandCares as primarily a community health organization since its mission seemed to expand to many other age groups beyond just the students.

Gail: feels that WaylandCares does not have a clear focus in terms of what age groups it serves which can make it difficult to categorize.

Dr. Stein: thinks that Wayland Cares not having a defined mission in in his opinion a positive aspect. Hedoes not want to pigeon hole it into education if it has a broader role which he thinks is valuable and addresses the multigenerational complexity of the substance abuse, health and safety issues it is working with. He would be open to talking and working to have WaylandCares under his department if there was no other option, but he can't commit to anything at this point in time.

Leslie: asked about supervision capacity of the School Dept to oversee WaylandCares in the future (and it was pointed out that the grant was under the schools already).

Dr. Stein: regarding supervising WaylandCares, if so, School Dept would need to find a specific administrator to be an overseer which may be tricky, but he would be willing to work somehow to help the WaylandCares organization continue to exist and do its work.

**Mrs. Cynthia Hill - Vice Chair of the Board of Health** - took time out from a very busy flu clinic at town hall to speak w us.

Mrs. Hill: was aware of WaylandCares only from about a year ago when Heidi discussed things with her. She was surprised that she had not heard more about it before. Regarding having Wayland Cares in her department, it cannot be under the Wayland Board of Health since they are under State jurisdiction, not Town jurisdiction.

Regarding possible administrative support for WaylandCares, the Board of Health has one administrator to assist the town nurse, septic person, and the director.

Opinion of the Board of Health that WaylandCares would fit best under Youth and Family Services. Also, the Board of Health did not feel that the supervision of seniors' medication was appropriate.

Comment from observer Heidi Heilman: the City of Brookline's model for substance abuse prevention was looked at by the sustainability committee as one Wayland could emulate. Brookline's comparable organization is under the Public Health department, works through the high school, oversees the substance abuse work that is done there. Members of the sustainability committee thought that it would be difficult to make this change in a short time and thus they made the recommendation for a separate town department in their report.

Mrs. Hill: "I don't think Brookline can be considered a peer town to Wayland."

Mrs. Hill added that one of her concerns was that WC's mission "is all over the place" and that, for example, WC staff are "not qualified" to monitor seniors' medications.

Gail commented that in the nonprofit world, that is known as "mission drift."

Mrs. Hill replied that she'd call it "mission mess."

Ms. Heilmandenied Mrs. Hill's concerns about WC's mission, claiming that WC never decided to broaden its services to include seniors and their meds.

Gail refuted this denial, citingWaylandCares' March 21 Federal grant proposal, in which it was stated that part of WC's 12-month plan for FY '14 was to hold a community event with the Council on Aging about using marijuana responsibly and safely, according to the Massachusetts Medical Society's standards.

Ed Collins underscored Gail's point by reminding everyone that WC's pitch to the BOS "explicitly mentioned" WC's intent to start monitoring seniors' medication.

**Joseph Karbowski**, Board Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee

Mr. Karbowski outlined the work of WYFS: 2 full time therapists primarily for school aged children, available for families who do and don't have children, the therapists work on a sliding scale for

financially challenged folks. Most of referrals come through the counselors' offices at school when the child's situation/issues gets to be more than the schools can cover. Therapists can do home visits to families. Also get referrals from Police Dept, via the court system, e.g. stealing, bullying, substance abuse. Does some prevention, but most of services are intervention.

WaylandCares worked in collaboration with WYFS for the prevention aspects of their mission - stress mgmt, substance abuse prevention, parent education overlaps with what they do. WYFS is more reactive to whatever comes up. WYFS felt that the broad mission of WaylandCares for prevention at many different angles of the community was helpful for them in hopefully preventing cases of distressed citizens.

WYFS suggested possibly hiring a person who is a Prevention specialist for WaylandCares in the future - for focusing on the studies that show what works for preventing social problems from worsening.

WYFS has 4 hrs a wk of administrative support in its budget and would find it difficult to support and house WaylandCares under its budget unless more funds were appropriated for it.

Shirley - asked about supervision for the therapists. WYFS contracts with Human Relations Services for complex cases, consultation with those professionals.

Gail - asked about budgetary issues

Mr. Karbowski - WYFS Board has not had opportunity to come up with ideas around what they are able to do for monetary or supervisory work for WaylandCares. Would have to bring this before the next board meeting to see what the members' opinions are. He is unable to speak for them. Unable to say for sure what they would be able to do unless WaylandCares and town officials worked with the Board to work out a fiscal and administrative plan.

Dossie Kahn - sat down with the committee briefly after Mr. Karbowski. She supports working on possibly having WaylandCares with the WYFS since the prevention mission complements the work she and the group already does.

Committee members thanked each town official for their valuable time and information.

Chairperson Gail: led committee in looking at First Draft Report - going through the questions.

Clear agreement amongst the committee members that the work that is done by WaylandCares is important to the community.

Shirley made point that she would like other committee members to add to the resource list being developed for question 6., e.g. Detective Backman had mentioned the Middlesex County agency that does some similar work.

Leslie expressed concern that the report of this committee may be so long that the selectmen may not want to read it at all. She voiced that when preparing the invitation letter with Katie, they had discussed how keeping the report as concise and readable as possible so would hopefully lead to it being more useful to the selectmen and other town officials who might read it.

Gail noted that the report's Executive Summary should be 2 pages or less so that anyone who does not want to read the entire report could at least read that for information, and that many of the documents included in the report will be provided to the Selectmen for background, such as the interview transcripts, and to include the record of this Committee's work (e.g. minutes)

Selectman Ed Collins brought up the question about causality in terms of if WaylandCares' work in the community was the cause of the lower numbers in Wayland for marijuana use or could this be from another cause. He is concerned that this question remains a key sticking point in the minds of many people. He wanted the committee to be prepared for when this is brought up at a future town meeting since it is likely that someone will raise this question. He knows that many citizens also don't believe in the validity of the Youth Risk Behavior Study since so many students say "it is a joke." He wants to make sure that the committee addresses these questions since they were what he heard from many people as the reason they did not think the town should be funding the WaylandCares budget as proposed at the April meeting.

Katie pointed out that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey has been validated by many prestigious organizations. The results of it are respected by federal organizations like the NIH and CDC so it seemed odd to her that citizens were questioning if the survey was valid. Also, the survey data have been used by many towns to procure grants from federal, state and local organizations who all view the survey results as important as they are the basis of the grants that have been awarded for years.

Ed Collins let Katie know that despite all that, many folks still question the validity of the study and doubt the findings of it are real.

Leslie asked if the committee could vote on a motion to have its position be that, if WaylandCares were to be housed within a previously existing town department, the most logical choice at this point would be Wayland Youth and Family Services, with continued support in various modalities from the School Department and other domains. The motion was supported by hand raising by all 5 committee members.

Observer Heidi Heilman: suggested that the committee could discuss with the Board of the WYFS to see how they feel about this recommendation, in order to know that this is a feasible option that could work out.

Gail and Joe felt that discussing this recommendation of the committee with the Board of WYFS was not within the charge given to this committee.

Shirley moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Gail. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:36pm.