

Amended DRAFT Minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee Meeting,
November 06, 2015

Members Present: Mr. Malcolm Astley, Ms. Ruth Backman, Rev. Theodore Crass, Ms. Corrie Dretler, Ms. Sarah Greenaway, Ms. Brenda Ross, Ms. Deborah Seidman

Also Present: Dr. Dossie Kahn, Ms. Jane Purser, Mr. Jason Verhoosky

Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Ross was welcomed as the new member of the YAC Appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Minutes of YAC October meeting were reviewed. Ms. Seidman moved to approve with corrections, regarding discussion of e-cigs and “vaping” regulation. Mr. Astley seconded motion, YAC unanimously voted to approve corrections. Ms. Backman will submit corrected minutes for review.

Dr. Kahn reminded the YAC of the Commonwealth of MA. conflict of interest training requirements for all members.

Staff updates

- Dr. Dowd and Dr. Kahn continue to receive new referrals.
- No new WPD diversion cases were referred.
- Monthly Grandparents Support group, weekly WHS Snack and Relax, three high school parent support groups, and Mom to Mom presentation (at Trinitarian Church) on normal sadness vs. depression, were provided by Dr. Kahn in October.
- Wayland Cares programming: and
- Mr. Verhoosky led the YAC in Q & A highlighting MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey Data for Wayland.
- Wayland Cares will offer an internet safety program for elementary school families in collaboration with PTOs and all elementary principals. Mr. Verhoosky will present the program at Happy Hollow School on 11/12/15 at 7:00 PM. The program follows a family pizza dinner offered by the PTO at 6:00pm in the same location. Child care is provided for younger students. All 4th and 5th graders are encouraged to participate.
- FY 15 stats and budget update document were distributed.

Discussion

- Following the survey data presentation, Mr. Astley raised the ongoing concern of how to help more students become engaged with trusted adults at school and feel comfortable in the school environment.
- Ms. Seidman, noted that connectedness in school community is critical and raised concern about students who don't fit in with recognized activities.
- Mr. Verhoosky described ongoing WHS Advisory group conversation geared toward enhancing communication and improving connection as the community interacts with the survey data.
- Ms. Seidman described student focus groups that the school system is conducting with the goal of better understanding student needs and social climate.

- Ms. Ross expanded the discussion about structure of YAC meetings by first looking at the goal and purpose of conversations in the YAC meeting.
- Ms. Seidman asked the committee to think about how the committee would like to develop agenda for future meetings.
- Ms. Seidman introduced the issue of how representatives communicate to their appointing bodies.
- Ms. Backman described value of members bringing a range of community perspectives to WYFS.
- Rev. Crass said he would like to see more presentations of our ongoing work such as a sample Snack & Relax group.
- Rev. Crass also noted that he sees a strong role for the YAC advocating for the mental health and health promotion needs of the community.

Future YAC Meeting Dates: 12/04/15, 01/08/16, 02/05/16, 03/04/16, 04/01/16, 05/06/16, 06/03/16, 9:00 AM, Wayland Town Building Second Floor, School Department Small Conference Room unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted,

Dossie F. Kahn, Psy.D.