

Minutes of the Youth Advisory Committee Meeting,
April 4, 2014

Members Present: Det. Ruth Backman, Ms. Corrie Dretler, Ms. Sarah Greenaway, Mr. Joe Karbowski (chair), Ms. Jane Purser, Ms. Deborah Seidman,

Also Present: Dr. Lynn Dowd, WHS student Daly Place.

Minutes of 02/07/14 reviewed and accepted.

A quick staff update covered the rate of referrals (high), no recent diversion referrals, no new parent coffees held the previous month. Dr. Kahn attended a Clergy Association meeting, and is scheduled to facilitate a discussion with parents at the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church this month. The Grandparents Support Group is ongoing, and nominations have been received for the High School Community Service Awards program on 5/6 at 7 p.m.

It was acknowledged that funding for a substance abuse prevention specialist was passed at Town Meeting the previous evening. This funding will be available July 1.

Daly Place, WHS junior and co-president of SADD, attended the meeting and described an idea that she and other SADD members would like to implement next school year. The members have been discussing ways to address emotional problems that students experience, particularly with regard to low self-esteem stemming from academic difficulty. She was especially interested in targeting communication patterns between parents and students, and between teachers and students. A discussion ensued about how to convey these concerns and suggestions from students to the adults at home and at school. Dr. Dowd will further investigate avenues with school personnel.

Future YAC meetings: 05/09/14 (changed from 5/2/14) to be held at WHS to facilitate youth input, and 06/06/14. (All meetings held in small School Department 2nd floor conference room unless otherwise noted, Town Building, 8:45 AM.)

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Dowd, Psy.D.