

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES COMMISSION

Minutes

July 10, 2018

Meeting

Present: Tyler Booth, Bevan Moore, Ann Purcell Murray, Bonnie Fierravanti, Karen Boisvert, Ann Carlson, Kreg O'Brien

Excused: Natalie Cook, Angela Phelan, Ann Mount, Rev. Larissa Forsythe, Pastor Mat Samuelson, Lillian Tanski, Sam Wilcox

Staff Present: Durlene Mikkelson, Ginny Burgess, Jason Stankowski

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm by Bevan Moore, Chairperson.

Minutes:

Bonnie Fierravanti made a motion to accept the May 29, 2018 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Ann Purcell-Murray. Motion Approved. Voting "yes" were Tyler Booth, Bevan Moore, Ann Purcell-Murray and Bonnie Fierravanti. Karen Boisvert

Director's Report:

Durlene Mikkelson, the Director of Human Services introduced herself and welcomed members. Durlene discussed the role of the former commission and invited the current commission to get to know the programs and services offered at Youth and Family Services.

Creative Experiences Supervisor Report on Programs/Advertising:

Jason Stankowski, the Program Supervisor for Creative Experiences introduced the programs he facilitates after school such as The Youth Services Action Group and the Social Club. Jason related that the majority of the programs offered after school are for 7th-12th graders and transportation is provided for children from the middle school. Jason reported that he collaborates with the outreach social workers as well as the clinicians. He emphasized the importance of reaching out to children that may not be involved in activities and helping them get connected. Jason also discussed the ACE mentoring program at Welles Village and how successful it has been in connecting younger children to high school mentors.

Jason reported how he currently advertises programs and a suggestion was made by the commission to reach out to the PTO Groups and see about the possibility of advertising in their newsletters.

Establish Goal(s) and Process to Achieve:

The commission members discussed several goals and came up with an action plan. Commission members raised the point that it is important for youth to have a place to go in town and have activities to do. Also discussed was the importance of reaching out to the kids who may not be connected with

activities or other youth and helping them get connected. Discussion included reaching out to the Park and Recreation Department to find out more about the teen center, skate park and the coffee house project. Discussion included commission members reaching out to different organizations in town to help find more meaningful community service for youth including some intergenerational community service. Jason Stankowski offered to establish a weekly community service group where he would supervise the youth doing community service. Also suggested was to have a fundraiser for art supplies during the fall play production and asking those that attend to donate an art supply to Youth and Family Services new Arts and Crafts Studio.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Boisvert, Acting Secretary