



## Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – December 17, 2018

**Attendance:** Trish Tucke, Nora Sinno, Madeline Medina, Diana Bezdedeanu, , Kevin Cote, Brad Pindel, John Loughnane, Mary Ellen LaRose, Sarah Baroud, Jan Midiri, David Russell, Talia Pincus, Sarah Baroud, Nina Banozic, Mary Ellen LaRose

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:04 a.m.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** David made a motion to accept the 11/19/18 minutes, Jan seconded. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

III. **Director's Report:**

### Clinical Services

\*There are currently **50 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 44 individual clients; 2 family clients; 4 parent consultations.

\*There have been **4 new intakes** for counseling services so far in December. There is not currently a waitlist for services, and residents are able to be placed with a clinician or graduate intern with an average turn-around time of two weeks. As always, referrals are triaged so that those residents in most immediate need are prioritized.

\***Girls Group** wraps up this week and the 2 newest **Structured Play Groups** have begun and will continue into January with 16 participants across three weekly groups.

### Program Updates

\***Bullying Prevention Theater (BPT)** rehearsals have been taking place since September and performances will take place on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Westwood.

\*Our **graduate interns** will be on winter break for over a week. We have begun hearing from Graduate School Social Work programs regarding interns for the next academic cycle. Breann, one of our current graduate interns is an advance standing student and her program at Simmons staying with us through August 2019.

\*The **Friends Network** program has been happening weekly at the Council on Aging. Pairs have gotten to know one another, participated in arts and crafts, games and some small volunteer projects. The winter party will take place in early January.

\*The second **"Thurston Friday Night Out"** was held on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The dodgeball tournament was a success, drawing a range of middle school grade levels. The next "Night Out" is on January 25<sup>th</sup> – the theme will be decided by TMS Student Council.

\***WY&FS Holiday Giving Program** has been very successful and gifts are ready to be picked up this week! Thanks to Mary Ellen for her dedication to this program and all of its important details.

### **Community Connections**

\*WY&FS was the Community Liaison representative at the monthly **Westwood Community Chest** meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Sarah gathered updates from WFD, WPD, Schools, etc and gave a report to the group. WCC is in the midst of planning their annual Chiara Fundraiser, which will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

\*WY&FS is happy to be able to support a family in need of **Taxi Cab vouchers** through the program with Veteran's Taxi which was established about 4 years ago. Staff has coordinated with the WHS Social Worker to get some vouchers to a high school student in need of temporary transportation to school and work.

### **IV. Old Business**

**Islington Center Redevelopment:** The town anticipates that WY&FS will move into their new space in the fall of 2020 at the earliest. Sarah shared that preliminary discussions have begun regarding a "pop up" Islington branch library being housed in the Sanctuary as early as the fall of 2019. WY&FS is happy to collaborate and share the space with the library. WY&FS currently uses the sanctuary space for programming meetings and office space for the interns. The space would need to be reconfigured to accommodate the temporary library space.

**Holiday Giving Program:** Mary Ellen reported that the Holiday Giving Drive is in full swing. Thirty-four families (61 children) will receive gifts this year. Gift pickup will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **V. New Business**

**Advisory Board Openings and Membership Process:** The board discussed board openings, current requirements to join the board and how should we proceed in attracting new members. Sarah noted that she had reached out to the Selectmen's and Town Clerk's office for clarification on the nomination process. They shared their support of formalizing our nomination process and will assist in spreading the word once we are ready to go public with the search for new board members. John suggested a nominating committee be formed of 3 to 5 current members to develop a nomination process. Board members expressed agreement for the formation of a committee. David and John gave suggestions for outreach to community i.e.: giving a brief presentation at an upcoming a school PTO meeting.

### **Community Liaisons:**

**Westwood Cares:** Sarah shared that the group meet in November and is considering hosting a community presentation on vaping and tobacco.

**Food Pantry:** Trish mentioned over 66 families are accessing the pantry. The numbers continue to rise and shopping days are busy. The pantry is need of more donations this time of year. They were able to give pantry clients a CVS gift card for the holidays. The amount given was based on the number of household members.

**Early Childhood Council:** Sarah mentioned that town and school administrators are discussing making space for the Council's office and programming in the new Islington WY&FS and Library building.

**Comprehensive Plan:** Jan attended a recent meeting and shared the committee is tasked with revamping the current comprehensive plan for the future of Westwood. The purpose is not to reinvent the wheel on the current plan but to make it fresh by taking into consideration current trends, plans, etc. Jan will be a part of the subcommittee on cultural/historic issues. The committee(s) hope to share ideas with the town by the Fall of 2019.

**Westwood Police Department:** Brad stated that he recently spoke with the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes regarding substance abuse. He also shared that another box truck hit the new East Street Bridge last week snarling morning traffic. The road will be lowered in the spring but even with the road lowered not all trucks will meet the height requirements.

**Thurston Middle School:** Report cards were recently released. A pipe burst at the school and the students lost a day of school. The spring play will be 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and auditions will be held in January.

**Westwood High School:** Students discussed the transition to college. Kevin, Talia, Diana and Nora spoke about the J-term. 10 new courses will be added this school year.

**Holiday Giving Thank You note writing:** Board members participated in writing thank you notes to holiday giving sponsors and assisted with organizing holiday gifts for distribution.

**VI. Adjournment** - The meeting was called to adjournment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose