



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – June 11, 2018

Attendance: Domenic Cianciarulo, Austin Bushey, Kevin Cote, Trish Tucke, John Loughnane, David Russell, John McKinnon, Brad Pindel, Diana Bezdedeanu, Mary Ellen LaRose, Danielle Sutton, Olivia Goldberg, Zane Rahabi, John McKinnon

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** The May 22nd meeting minutes were accepted.

IV. Director's Report:

WY&FS is preparing for another impending maternity leave. Danielle is expecting a baby girl in November 2018!

Clinical Services

*There are currently **45 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload. This is compared to 54 clients at our meeting on May 22nd as the interns have closed out their cases in the first two weeks of June. There are 40 individual clients; 2 family clients and 3 parent consultations.

*There have been **2 new intakes** for counseling services so far in June. As of March 26th, we reached maximum capacity for counseling clients, and currently have a **9-person waitlist** (up from seven at our 5/21 meeting) with an expected four-six week turnaround (versus the typical two-week turnaround from time of intake to therapist assignment). Residents who are waitlisted are directed to INTERFACE Referral Service and are offered an option for a one-time consultation with a Y&FS clinician to provide support while they wait. As always, referrals are triaged so that those residents in most immediate need are prioritized. Once the school year ends, we anticipate being able to place those on the waitlist with our regular counseling staff for appointments through the summer.

*All Groups have ended for the year, and registration for Structured Play Groups and Girls Group has already begun for September 2018. **From September 2017-June 2018, 60 children participated in 7 Structured Play Groups and 1 Girls Group.** There were 18 children who registered for groups and did not attend. Although many children were pulled from the waitlist over the course of the year, 11 children remained on the waitlist and were not able to participate this year. These children will be given priority for registration in next year's groups.

Program Updates

*School-year programs that ran this year and are expected to run next year include:

***Bullying Prevention Theater**

***Body Safety Theater**

***Friends Network**

***Holiday Giving Program**

***Recognize-a-Youth**

***Teen Scene @ the Library**

***Thurston After-School Activities**

***Thurston Dance Events**

*Today, June 11th was the final day of this year's **partnership with the Sheehan elementary school to offer social-emotional education**, a collaboration that began in October.

*The **Graduate Internship program** continues to receive applications for the 2018-2019 academic year. We have already filled one of our two open positions, and continue to hold interviews to see if we can find a match for the remaining open position. Recently one of our three intern

*For the second year, WY&FS will be offering a free summer **Creative Craft Club** program for 1st-3rd and 4th-6th grade residents. The first sessions will begin on Thursday, June 28th and registration is already full!

Community Connections

*WY&FS participated in several local and regional groups in FY18, including the **Town of Westwood's Executive Function Group; Human Services Function Group; Community Crisis Intervention Team; Early Childhood Council; Westwood Community Chest; Deerfield Site Council; WHS Child Study Team; WHS Legislative Council; WHS Site Council; Regional Internship Collaborative; Roy London Humanitarian Award Committee; Westwood Cares.**

V. Old Business

Islington Center Redevelopment: The three articles concerning Islington Redevelopment passed by a two-thirds vote at the May Town Meeting. The development will move forward in three phases starting in the Fall of 2018.

Panda Express Launch Day Partnership – Danielle announced that WY&FS was given permission from the Selectmen's office to accept a donation from Panda Express. The soon to be opened store will be donating 20% of sales that day to the department. WY&FS will be marketing the event throughout town.

VI. New Business

Community Liaisons:

Food Pantry: Trish reported that the Food Pantry will be a site for a J-Term class on hunger in MA. A classroom at the Deerfield School is hosting a food drive for the pantry. The pantry has seen a rise in numbers with new long term residents at the Budget Inn. She mentioned that the pantry offers delivery to those that don't drive.

School Resource Officer: Brad mentioned he recently completed DARE classes to 5th graders and substance abuse presentations to the 6th grade classes at Thurston. The WPD has two new recruits to the force.

Thurston Middle School: Austin reported that all incoming 6th graders have had their visits to the Thurston. There are 220 students in this class. He stated that this smaller class size has its pros and cons in regard to staffing and discussions are ongoing regarding what changes and challenges this may bring.

Westwood High School: Zane and Olivia spoke about the senior week and the all night graduation party. The board thanked Austin, Zane and Olivia for their service to the Advisory Board and wished them well.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose