



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – October 22, 2018

Attendance: Trish Tucke, Talia Pincus, Samantha Nelson, John McKinnon, Kevin Cote, Danielle Sutton, John Loughnane, Brad Pindel, Janica Midiri, Mary Ellen LaRose, Nora Sinno, Diana Bezdedeau

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

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Danielle made a motion to accept the 9/24/18 minutes, Trish seconded. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

IV. Director's Report:

Clinical Services

*There are currently **46 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 40 individual clients; 2 family clients; 4 parent consultations. (*This total is compared to 48 at our last meeting in September and compared to 41 in October of 2017 and 37 in October of 2016.*)

*There have been **9 new intakes** for counseling services so far in October (*This is comparable to 8 in September and also comparable to 6 new intakes in October of 2017 and 5 new intakes in October 2016*). 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 Groups (1)** and **Structured Play Groups (2)** are up and running with 23 participants across three weekly groups, a maximum of eight participants in each SPG and seven out of ten participants in Girls Group.

Program Updates

***Bullying Prevention Theater (BPT)** rehearsals have been taking place since September 25th and roles have been assigned for the 26 high school volunteer Mentors participating in the program.

*The first **Thurston Friday Night Out** took place on October 12th. There were ~160 Thurston students in attendance, and 20 high school volunteer Mentors who did a fantastic job of keeping things running smoothly and ensuring that everyone had a good time! Advisory Board Member, Nora Sinno is one of our Mentor Managers

*Interviews have closed for the **Friends Network** program and orientation will be held on Wednesday, 10/24, for the high school volunteers in the program ("Big Friends"). The 24 pairs of "Big Friends" and "Little Friends" will begin meeting in the first week of November across two weekly evening sessions held at the Council on Aging.

Community Connections

*WY&FS received **\$500 from the Panda Express Launch Day Fundraiser**, 20% of their sales from that day (9/28). Thank you to everyone who participated and/or helped to spread the word!

*As the lead agency for the Town's contract with the William James College **INTERFACE Referral Service**, WY&FS worked with participating school and town departments in October to secure funding for this year's contract (Nov 1, 2018-October 31, 2019). This is the fourth year that the town has offered the mental health service to residents. Danielle reported that 107 residents accessed the service in FY18.

*WY&FS is happy to once again serve as a drop-off site for the town-wide drive by the Westwood Young Women's Club for **Dignity Matters**, a local non-profit that aims to support girls and women living in poverty by gathering and distributing undergarments and feminine hygiene products.

*On Thursday, November 8th, WY&FS will be represented on a panel of speakers for the **Judge Baker Children's Center Speaker Series** entitled, **"Limit Setting in the Age of Technology: Effective Strategies for Kindergarten through 8th Grade"**. The event will be held in the Little Theater at WHS and is open to the public.

V. Old Business

Islington Center Redevelopment: Danielle shared the development will begin moving forward in three phases starting this fall with the first phase being the demolition of the Café Diva building. The town anticipates that WY&FS will move into their new space in the fall of 2020 at the earliest.

Panda Express Partnership: As Danielle reported earlier the fundraiser was a success. The board discussed future partnerships with the restaurant.

CORI Checks: Board members completed CORI paperwork. All board members are now in compliance and their paperwork has been sent to the Town for review.

Maternity Leave Coverage – Danielle reported that Sarah Baroud, currently the Clinical Coordinator will serve as the interim director while she is on maternity leave. Danielle will return in February.

VI. New Business

Bylaws Review – Advisory Board Openings: Danielle shared with the board a copy of the Bylaws that were last updated five years ago. The board focused in on the membership requirements. John inquired about whether there is the process of vetting new board members. He suggested the board create an information package containing pertinent information on the department. Danielle mentioned pulling in the Selectmen's office for advisement on the process and to learn what other town departments' advisory boards have in place for filling vacancies. John suggested we add this as an action item to look into over the course of this year's advisory board year.

Holiday Giving Program: Mary Ellen shared that the department is still accepting and seeking families that may be in need of assistance with holiday gifts this season. Jan shared with the group that she is running a holiday gift drive for children served by the MA Department of Children and Families. They are looking for additional sponsors.

Community Liaisons:

Food Pantry: Trish reported that the Food Pantry is once again running their sorting day on Saturday, November 17th. Members of the Cub Scouts will drop off bags of food from their annual drive. The Food Pantry board is looking for high school volunteers to assist with sorting. The pantry shares any excess food collected at the drive with a food pantry in Jamaica Plain.

Comprehensive Plan – Jan will be representing the board on this committee that will review Westwood’s current comprehensive plan with the goal of updating the plan by the end of 2019.

Community Chest: Danielle reported that WCC has decided to have Town liaisons (ie: Town Clerk, Police, COA, WY&FS, etc) rotate meeting attendance for the year. The liaison attending the meeting for a particular month will report out for all liaisons. The hope is that this will ease the burden of attending numerous night meetings during the month for liaisons.

Westwood Police Department: Brad mentioned the department has recently seen an increase in car break-ins particularly of unlocked vehicles.

Thurston Middle School: Jan reported conferences with teachers are beginning in the coming weeks. The 6th graders are preparing for a play and the school will be holding a meeting for 8th grade parents regarding the class trip to Washington DC.

Elementary Schools: Brad reported progress reports have recently come out. Many of the schools will be hosting their Halloween Parties this upcoming Friday. He mentioned that on November 8th The Judge Baker Children’s Center will be hosting a talk in Westwood. The title of the talk is “Limit Setting in the Age of Technology -Effective strategies from Kindergarten to 8th grade”. Danielle will be a featured presenter along with Todd Danforth, Thurston Psychologist and Sarah Tannenbaum of Judge Baker’s Children Center.

Westwood High School: Samantha began a conversation around a new WHS library policy, which caps how many students can be in the library at one time. Students reported that the hallways are now more crowded and they feel the roll out of this new policy happened suddenly without much explanation. A breakfast was held recently for SIPP participants and sponsors.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was called to adjournment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose