



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – September 24, 2018

Attendance: Trish Tucke, Talia Pincus, Madeline Medina, Samantha Nelson, John McKinnon, Kevin Cote, Danielle Sutton, John Loughnane, Brad Pindel, David Russell, Janica Midiri, Mary Ellen LaRose

I. Call to Order: The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: David Russell made a motion to accept the 6/11/18 minutes, Brad seconded. All were in favor of approving the minutes

IV. Director's Report:

Welcome to our new Board members and thanks to everyone for their service this year on the Y&FS Advisory Board! We're looking forward to working with you to support the healthy development of Westwood's young people and their families. It was a fast summer, with some notable departmental milestones: As of July 1st, one of our two Youth Services Counselor positions, the one currently held by Sarah Baroud, was officially reclassified as a Clinical Coordinator position. We are so happy to have Sarah in this role! Sarah has also agreed to once again serve as Interim Director during the upcoming maternity leave, and one of our past Graduate Interns and current Group Co-Leaders, Stephanie Miller, has agreed to serve in the role of Interim Youth Services Counselor during that same time period. Thanks go to our Town Administrator, Finance Director, and HR Director for their continued support of our staffing coverage needs. They say that time flies when you're having fun, and it certainly seems to be true here at WY&FS! Youth Services Counselor, Nina Banozic, is coming up on three years in her role as of October, while this past August Sarah and Mary Ellen had their four-year anniversaries and Danielle reached fourteen years with the Y&FS department.

Clinical Services

*There are currently **48 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 43 individual clients; 1 family client; 4 parent consultations. (This total is compared to 45 at our last meeting in June of 2018 and compared to 39 in September of 2017 and 36 in September of 2016.)

*There have been **8 new intakes** for counseling services so far in September, and there were also 8 intakes over the months of July and August. (This total of 16 intakes from July through September is comparable to 12 across the same time period in 2017 and 15 in 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

*Y&FS is happy to welcome this year's participants into our **Graduate Internship Program, Emily Greco, M.Ed.** and **Breann McGee, BSW** of Simmons College School of Social Work. Both women are in their final year field placement, which means that they will be with us for 24 hours per week, Emily through June and Breann through August.

*For the second summer, Sarah and Nina ran two six-week sessions of the **Craft Club** program, providing an opportunity for elementary school-aged residents to get together and create crafts along themes that are important to healthy development such as mindfulness, goal setting, communication and individual creativity.

*All high school students received notice of the **Mentor programs** for the 2018-2019 academic year at the beginning of September. Interviews have been taking place over the last two weeks and program orientations begin this week! We are happy to once again be offering a large selection of volunteer opportunities for high school-aged residents across six different programs: **Body Safety Theater; Bullying Prevention Theater; Friends Network; Teen Scene @ the Library; Thurston After-School Programs; Thurston Middle School Dance Events.**

***Bullying Prevention Theater** (BPT) program rehearsals will take place on a new night this year, Tuesdays, and we are excited to welcome back **Sarah Spinello** for her second year as Director of the program!

***Friends Network** will begin in the first week of November and in a flip from last year, we have plenty of high school Mentors who have applied but still have openings for “Little Friends” in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. There are two sessions of Friends Network that will run each Wednesday evening from November-April. **Mary Ellen LaRose** will once again be in the role of program facilitator and has also taken on the behind-the-scenes administration, organization and communication for Friends Network. This year our Graduate Interns, Emily and Breann, will alternate co-leading responsibilities alongside Mary Ellen.

Community Connections

*On Tuesday, August 21st, WY&FS hosted a meeting with representatives from **Health Imperatives**, an agency that provides rape crisis services for individuals of any age, as well as free and sliding fee sexual and reproductive health services and resources for parents under the age of 21 in Westwood and surrounding communities.

*Danielle and Mary Ellen took part in the organization and marketing for a **Massachusetts Municipal Association Human Services Council** workshop on September 13th in Acton entitled, “*Collaborative Crisis Management for Municipalities*”. Retired Westwood Fire Captain and current Director of the ALEC program at SNCARC, Bill Cannata, was a speaker at the event.

***This Friday, 9/28, is the official Launch Date of the new Panda Express at University Station and WY&FS will receive 20% of their day’s sales as a donation. No coupon or flyer needed. Spread the word and have at least one of your meals at Panda Express on Friday! ☺**

*Y&FS staff is participating in the following local groups, boards and committees this fiscal year:

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| -Community Chest | -Community Crisis Intervention Team |
| -Deerfield Site Council | -Early Childhood Council |
| -Executive Function Group | -Human Services Function Group |
| -Islington Center Task Force | -MMA Human Services Council |
| -Municipal Facilities Task Force | -Regional Internship Collaborative |
| -Regional Youth Commission Meetings | -Roy London Humanitarian Award Committee |
| -Westwood Cares | -WHS Child Study Team |
| -WHS Legislative Council | -WHS Site Council |

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.

Advisory Board Openings – John mentioned that the board is in need of new members to fill vacancies. Danielle shared that the WHS nurse may have interest in joining us. She then explained the process of how a new member joins the board.

VI. New Business

Comprehensive Plan- Danielle encouraged any interested board members to join the town's Comprehensive Plan Committee. The committee's task is to create a vision for the town's future growth.

CORI Checks – Board members completed the Criminal Offender Record Information Acknowledgement Forms (CORI).

Community Liaisons:

Food Pantry: Trish reported that the Food Pantry currently has 97 clients with about 75 of those being senior citizens.

Community Chest: Danielle reported that the board 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.

School Resource Officer: Brad mentioned the department recently completed lockdown and bus evacuation drills at each school. The department has increased their presence in the Maze neighborhood after high school dismissal. This is a result of calls from neighbors complaining about how teens are driving at excessive speeds through the neighborhood.

Thurston Middle School: Brad gave a brief report about changes regarding 6th graders sitting with their homeroom at lunch and administrators greeting students buses as they arrive each morning put in place by Thurston's new principal Mike Redmond.

Westwood High School: Student board members spoke of an upcoming IAM Strong Event, October 9th and 10th as well as concerns regarding new parking arrangements in the high school lot.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was called to adjournment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose