



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – April 24, 2017

Attendance: Jan Midiri, Trish Tucke, Alicia Lamonda, Domenic Cianciarulo, Zane Rahabi, Sophia Paravalos, Olivia Goldberg, Daniel O'Connor, Brad Pindel, Austin Bushey, John Loughnane, Danielle Sutton, Mary Ellen LaRose

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Austin moved to accept the January minutes, Janica seconded.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the February 27th board meeting were accepted.

III. Director's Report:

* Clinical Services

*There are currently **53 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 9 more than at last report in February. There are 44 individual clients; 4 family clients; 5 parent consultations.

*There were **12 new intakes** for counseling services over the months of March (8) and April (4). For the first time in FY17, there is a waitlist for services as counselor and intern caseloads max out and we prepare for the end of service for our graduate interns. Any residents calling for services are notified and given information about the INTERFACE Referral Service. As always, referrals here at WY&FS are triaged so that those residents in most immediate need are prioritized.

* Three **Structured Play Groups** and one **Girls Group program** are running weekly, with a total of **25 participants**. The programs will be ending in the middle of May.

Program Updates

*The **Body Safety Theater** program is in full swing, with the **24 Mentors in the BST cast** rehearsing weekly and Nina working diligently to schedule parent information sessions, classroom visits and final details of performances. Informational packets went out to parents earlier in April, parent information sessions will be held in the morning and evening on Tuesday, April 25th, and performances will take place for all third grades on Tuesday, May 9th and Thursday, May 11th.

This is the 30th year the program has run in Westwood. In her time at WY&FS Danielle reported she hasn't heard of any kids saying they were afraid perhaps some have "felt awkward" but not afraid of the information covered.

***Friends Network** held its final sessions of the school year on Wednesday, April 12th. The program began in the first week of November, and continued with two weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings at the COA and **over 60 participants** between the Little Friends and Big Friend volunteers.

*March 17th was the most recent **Thurston Middle School Dance** event. There were approximately **160 students in attendance** and a great group of high school Mentors acting as role models and interacting

with the middle school students. The final dance will be held on Friday, May 12th. There was a discussion of perhaps changing the name to a “social” instead of a dance.

*Interviews for the 2017-2018 **WY&FS Graduate Intern program** took place in March and April, and both spots have been filled, for the second year in a row, with graduate interns from the Simmons Graduate School of Social Work. A board member asked if we see male candidates interview for the program. Danielle noted that a few years back WY&FS had a male graduate intern but we don't receive applications from male candidates as often as from female. She thought this follows the trend in the field. Two past directors of WY&FS have been male. Danielle noted one of those past directors ran a group for fathers. Jan mentioned the Department of Children and Families runs a nurturing fathers group. You do not need to be involved with the department to attend the group.

***NEW MENTOR PROGRAM:** March was the first month of the new “**Teen Scene @ the Library**” program which takes place after school hours on Early Release Wednesdays and Fridays. High school Mentors hang out with the middle school students who gather at the library, chatting, playing games and acting as positive role models with the younger students. In March, WY&FS and Library staff continued to recruit more high school-aged volunteers to serve as Mentors in the program. WY&FS has 9 mentors signed up to help with this program.

*Nominations wrapped up on March 31st for the annual **Recognize-A-Youth awards**, a collaboration with the Westwood Rotary. The Rotary has determined the recipients, who will be notified this week, and the award ceremony will be held at a Rotary meeting on May 16th.

Community Connections

*On March 7th, WY&FS presented at the **Martha Jones PTO** on department services and the BST program.

*On March 21st, WY&FS attended a regional **System of Care** meeting regarding LGBTQ resources for youth and families.

*On March 27th and 28th, the WY&FS Advisory Board held **Student Board Member interviews** for residents in their sophomore year of high school who have applied to serve over their junior and senior years of high school.

*Thus far in April, WY&FS staff has participated in the following **community meetings**:

-Westwood Cares -WHS Child Study Team-Westwood Early Childhood Council-WHS Legislative Council-WHS Site Council-Westwood Community Crisis Intervention Team

*On April 26th, WY&FS staff will film a **Monthly Media Spotlight** for the Westwood Media Center (formerly WestCAT) that will play throughout the month of May, which is National Mental Health Awareness Month. The spot will highlight WY&FS services and the INTERFACE Referral Service for Westwood residents. Danielle reported between 60-80 residents have utilized the services. The highest call volume has been parents with school aged children. Danielle noted there is an ongoing effort to get the word out to adult community. Austin mentioned the feedback he hears on INTERFACE is positive and that it is a perfect place to start the process of seeking out supports that works for child and family.

IV. Old Business

Student Board Members Interview Process-Danielle and Mary Ellen thanked board members for taking part in the interviews. Danielle reported that the four incoming student board members are invited to attend the May meeting. They are John McKinnon, Nora Sinno, Madeline Medina and Talia Pincus.

V. New Business

WestCAT Monthly Media Spotlight: Mary Ellen will provide the board with a link to the video once it becomes available. The spotlight is taking place on April 26th.

Food Pantry - Trish reported that Aidan Walsh a WHS Senior has spent his SIPP project has been getting the pantry online and organized. Trish reported the pantry supplies are getting low.

Westwood Cares – Danielle mentioned the group is hosting a spring event featuring Dr. Marisa Silveira will be held on June 14th. She will speak on adolescent brain development. John spoke about the upcoming town election and the ballot question regarding sales of marijuana in town.

Police- The station should be complete in September and the fire station as well. Brad is meeting with 5th graders with month with the DARE program and he is speaking with 8th grade wellness classes as well.

Islington Center Task Force - Trish reported the task force voted nine to one to send option #6 to the Selectmen and they will entertain whether that option is viable or not viable. She also spoke about the MBTA train bridge on East Street.

Middle School –Austin reported MCAS testing is taking place and the new schedule of spacing out the testing over a longer amount of days seems to be working well allowing more time for makeups and it's causing less disruption to the daily schedule. 5th graders will be visiting the building in the month of May and 8th graders will visit the high school. He mentioned Allison Borchers upcoming move to the district office to become the assistant superintendent and Kyle Grady's move to become principal of a middle school in Stowe. A principal search is underway and an interim assistant principal will serve for one year.

High School – Sophia spoke about the junior/senior prom taking place at Blue Hills Country Club on May 19th. SIPP presentations are in full swing. The group discussed the pros and cons from the perspective of students, town residents, and police of the tradition for seniors organizing and participating in senior assassin game.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose