



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – January 23, 2017

Attendance: Zane Rahabi, Domenic Cianciarulo, Brad Pindel, Danielle Sutton, Olivia Goldberg, Dan O'Connor, Simone Greenberg, Robbie Antonucci, John Loughnane, Alicia Lamonda, Janica Midiri, Mary Ellen LaRose

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the November 28th board meeting were accepted.

III. Director's Report:

Clinical Services

*There are currently **43 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 36 individual clients; 3 family clients; 4 parent consultations.

*There were **8 new intakes** for counseling services over December and January. 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.

*The first round of the **Girls Group program** ended in December, and there are now three **Structured Play Groups** taking place each week with a total of **18 participants**.

Program Updates

*Thanks to the coordination efforts of Mary Ellen and the generosity of the more than 30 local sponsors, the **Holiday Giving** program was able to provide holiday gifts to **65 Westwood children in 33 families** this December.

***The Dub Club**, formerly known as Thurston Thursday Club, continues to run on Thursday afternoons in Room 114 at the Thurston. Due to the consistently low numbers of middle schoolers in attendance at the program this year, and declining participation over the past few years, we will be moving forward with a **new version of this Mentor program beginning in March**.

***Bullying Prevention Theater** (BPT) held an information session for parents on January 17th and performances are taking place for the 6th grade classes at the Thurston on January 24th and 26th.

***Friends Network**, which began in the first week of November, continued through December and January. The Friends' pairs enjoyed a winter celebration to kick off the New Year!

Community Connections

*Danielle was named as the Chair for the **Westwood Cares** community group, with WHS Principal Sean Bevan in the role of Vice Chair. The group has drafted their first Strategic Plan and continues work to

formalize the group and expand membership while providing relevant substance education and substance abuse prevention to the community.

*As a sub-group of Westwood Cares, Town Administrator, Mike Jaillet, has spearheaded the formation of an **Opioid Task Force** to specifically address community issues and policies around opioid abuse prevention and support resources. WY&FS holds a position on this task force, which began meeting in December.

*WY&FS also continues to sit on the **Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT)**, headed by Sgt. Joe Vinci of the WPD. The last meeting was held on January 19th.

*WY&FS continues to take part in the **Islington Center Task Force (ICTF)**, which is moving along in the process of gathering resident input and reviewing proposals for development in the area. The last meeting of the ICTF was Wednesday, January 18th.

IV. New Business:

RAY-Recognize a Youth Program – Mary Ellen explained that the RAY award recognizes young people in Westwood who have showed initiative and commitment to community services and have demonstrated an ethic of caring for others that is essential to the health our community. Nominations are now being accepted until March 31st. Board Members were encouraged to help get the word out.

2017/2018 Student Board Member Interview Process: Danielle mentioned that a mailing will be going out in late February to sophomore high school students encouraging them to consider applying to join the advisory board for next school year. Interviews will take place in late March. Student board members were asked to help spread the word to fellow classmates.

Community Liaisons/Community Updates:

Early Childhood Council: Alicia shared that a new partnership between the Council on Aging and ECC titled “Nest to Table” has begun. The program brings together Senior Citizens and youngsters at Powisset Farm in Dover.

Westwood Police: Officer Pindel shared the police have responded to the library for some disturbances amongst middle schoolers. In the past few months the library has seen a larger than usual number of middle schoolers visiting and they have expressed a need for additional help to make sure they and all patrons are having a good experience during their visit. Danielle shared that WY&FS and the WPL staff are working on establishing a Mentor program with high schoolers acting as role models for the TMS students during their time at the library.

Westwood High School: Robbie, Olivia, Sophia and Dan shared information on upcoming midterm exams and a junior class college seminar.

New Residential Employment Match Program: Danielle gave the group a synopsis of a potential new program idea that would assist young people in obtaining business and residential employment, as well as, assisting residents requiring help with chores and childcare. The program would be modeled after one already in place in Needham. Danielle provided the group with materials from the Needham program to review. Board members gave initial input and feedback. The group will continue this discussion at future board meetings.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose.