



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – June 13, 2016

Attendance: Zane Rahabi, Simone Greenberg, Olivia O’Shea, Rob Antonucci, Brad Pindel, Domenic Cianciarulo, Gioia Cianciarulo, Nina Banozic, Joanna Bengel, John Loughnane, David Russell, Jan Midiri, Arlene Kasarjian, Trish Tucke, Danielle Sutton, Sarah Baroud, Sophia Paravalos, 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.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the May board meeting were accepted.

III. Interim Director’s Report:

Clinical Services

*There are currently **36 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload: 30 individual clients; 1 family client; 5 parent consultations.

*There have been **3 new intakes** for counseling services so far in the month of June. There is currently a waitlist for services due to pending staff transitions, and we are using the “consultation” model to be sure families are served in the most effective way. As always, referrals are triaged so that those residents in most immediate need are prioritized. Interim Youth Services Counselor, Nina Banozic will stay with us till August.

Program Updates

*Programs are complete for the year! Registrations and applications for Structured Play Group, Girls Only! Group, and Friends Network are available online for the 2016-17 school year.

*We are not running Single Parent Support Group due to a lack of interest and will revise/create programs based on parent survey feedback. Needham Youth Services is running their SPSG and Westwood residents can contact them if interested.

Community Connections

*On May 24th, Y&FS attended the **Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition grant meeting in Needham**. This grant, secured by the Boards of Health in Westwood, Norwood, Dedham and Needham, aims to reduce issues related to underage drinking and substance abuse in the region.

*Y&FS co-coordinated the **Recognize A Youth (R.A.Y.)** award program and ceremony. The ceremony was held on Tuesday, June 7th at the Dedham Holiday Inn. 5 youth from the community were recognized for their community service.

*Youth & Family Services staff continues to participate in the local community group, **Westwood Cares**. The group now has active Facebook and Twitter accounts, with a web page in development. On June 1st at 7 PM at the WHS Auditorium, Westwood Cares hosted the **Social Host Liability Event**, featuring Kathi Sullivan presenting “Taylor’s Message.” WestCat filmed at the event. Parents expressed they hoped Kathi would come back to talk to students.

*Y&FS staff has attended the **Islington Center Task Force** monthly meetings. The Request for Proposals has been sent out. Completed proposals for the redevelopment of 4 parcels of land in Islington are due back by June 20. The Islington Community Center is one of the parcels being considered.

*In April, Y&FS has attended or will attend meetings of the **WHS Site Council, Deerfield Site Council, Westwood Early Childhood Council, Westwood Cares, Islington Center Task Force, Child Study Team (CST) at WHS, Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT)** and the **Westwood Community Chest**.

V. **Old Business:** Security cameras tied into the police station have been installed at the ICC in the WY&FS main lobby and at the back door by the CVS parking lot.

VI. **New Business**

Over 300 parents participated in the WY&FS parent survey. One item that stood out was a large percentage of parents are expressing interest in attending a one-time weeknight parenting workshop on topics such as safe technology use, social skills, managing stress, adolescence development, etc. WY&FS will continue to review the data and share more at the September meeting.

Community Liaisons:

Westwood High School: Gioia mentioned that graduation went well and that the All Night Graduation Party featured a touching video recapping highlights from the year made by a fellow senior classmate. Robbie stated students are preparing for final exams.

Westwood Cares: The group has wrapped up for the summer. They are working on developing a website and planning a fall speaker.

Food Pantry: Trish reported the food pantry is well-stocked at the moment.

Westwood Police: Brad highlighted that the DARE program went well at the elementary level and planning is underway for Safety Town Recreation Camp.

VI. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m. A dessert reception followed. Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose.