



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – November 28, 2016

Attendance: Dan O'Connor, Trish Tucke, Domenic Cianciarulo, Sophia Paravalos, Brad Pindel, Olivia O'Shea, Robbie Antonucci, Olivia Goldberg, Zane Rahabi, John Loughnane, Mary Ellen LaRose, Danielle Sutton

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

III. Director's Report:

Clinical Services

*There are currently **38 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 31 individual clients; 2 family clients; 5 parent consultations.

*There were **4 new intakes** for counseling services in the month of November. 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 Group** continues its 12-week course, while a new round of **Structured Play Groups** have begun. There are **20 participants** across these three weekly groups.

Program Updates

*The **Holiday Giving** program is in full swing, with all of the donors and recipients matched and gifts starting to arrive! Once again, Mary Ellen has coordinated beautifully and we have more than enough donors to provide gifts for the 61 children signed up this holiday season.

***The Dub Club**, formerly known as Thurston Thursday Club, continues to run on Thursday afternoons in Room 114 at the Thurston. We continue to see low numbers of middle school participants in this program, and are considering options for revamping the program to better meet the needs of the community going forward. Danielle shared that some of the ideas that are being discussed are pairing mentors with Thurston teachers running after school programs. These students would act as positive role models for the participants. Another idea is to run a Friends Network style mentoring program pairing mentors with Thurston students.

***Bullying Prevention Theater (BPT)** rehearsals are up and running and the Mentors have received their roles. Performances are expected to take place at the Thurston on January 24th and 26th, with a Parent Information session the week prior on January 17th. Mary Ellen along with the Thurston administration will publicize this session

***Friends Network** began in the first week of November and the program is off to a great start with approximately 60 participants!

Community Connections

*On October 26th, Danielle attended the **IAM Strong** Event at the Norwood Theatre, representing WY&FS and the INTERFACE Referral Service and handing out information about these resources.

*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 Thursday, November 10th and WY&FS shared a document with the group that outlined current space usage at the ICC.

*On November 15th, all of the WY&FS staff members attended the **Westwood Cares** event, "The Impact of Marijuana on Teens and Young Adults." Prior to the event, Mary Ellen created the event flyer and had a hand in much of the publicity around the event while Sarah and Nina helped out with event details and coordination.

IV. Old Business:

Holiday Giving Program: Mary Ellen explained how the WY&FS Holiday Giving Program works. This year 33 Westwood families and a total of 65 children will participate in the program.

V. New Business:

WY&FS Space Usage: Danielle shared with the board the Islington Community Center Use Overview that she submitted to the Islington Center Task Force on behalf of the department. The report contains information on how WY&FS currently uses the offices spaces, waiting room and sanctuary space at the Community Center

Community Liaisons/Community Updates:

Westwood Cares: John and Danielle shared that over 125 people attended the recent Impact of Marijuana and Teens and Young Adults with Rick Cresta talk on November 15th. Residents can view the talk on WestCat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv_g5p0_UUg
John encouraged the board to view the video if they couldn't attend. Attendees were given a feedback form on the talk. WY&FS graduates will be compiling the feedback. Participants were given a marijuana talk kit to take home.

Westwood Food Pantry: Trish shared that the Food Pantry Sorting event was a success with numerous Westwood HS volunteering their time.

Westwood Community Chest: The Chiara fundraising event will be held on January 30th.

Early Childhood Council: Danielle shared that WY&FS will be partnering with the ECC on a Mindfulness in March event.

Westwood Police Department: Officer Pindel shared he is visiting 6th, 9th and 12th grade wellness classes to have grade appropriate discussions on alcohol/marijuana.

Westwood High School: Robbie and Olivia shared that Winter sports are beginning. The SIPP Dance Marathon fundraiser has raised \$20,000 towards their \$30,000 goal. The event benefits the Children's Miracle Network. Olivia and Sophia reported over 450 students attended Homecoming. Robbie mentioned that there was a Spirit Day/ Pep Rally on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose.