



Meeting Minutes for Advisory Board Meeting – June 10, 2019

Attendance: Samantha Nelson, Diana Bezdedeanu, Brad Pindel, Jan Midiri, John Loughnane, Mary Ellen LaRose, Danielle Sutton, Nora Sinno, David Russell, Mary-Carol Waters, Nina Banozic, Josh Minsky, Sahara Hayes, Domenic Cianciarulo, Madeline Medina, Ethan Blonder

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting convened at the Islington Community Center and was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** David made a motion to accept the 5/20/19 minutes, Brad seconded. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

III. Director's Report:

Danielle acknowledged Youth Services Counselor, Nina Banozic and thanked her for her four years of service with the department and wished her well. The YSC position is posted on the town website until June 18th. Danielle will keep the board posted and updated on results of search.

Clinical Services

*There are currently **53 counseling clients** on the WY&FS caseload, 46 individual clients; 2 family clients; 5 parent consultations.

*There have been **6 new intakes** for counseling services since our last meeting on May 20th. The waitlist has moved from seven to three individuals on it since our last meeting. We continue to offer a one-time consultation meeting with a Y&FS clinician and also to share the William James INTERFACE Referral Service information as another option for residents who are waitlisted. As always, referrals are triaged so that those residents in most immediate need are prioritized.

*The last **Structured Play Group** of the year wrapped up on May 22nd. **Eighty-two residents** registered for Structured Play Groups and Girls Groups between September 2018–May 2019. Seventy-three were assigned to groups and nine were waitlisted. It is worth noting that nineteen residents ended up not attending the group to which they were assigned, an ongoing issue for these types of programs in any community. Planning has already begun for next year's Structured Play Groups and Girls Groups!

Program Updates

*The annual **Recognize-a-Youth (R.A.Y.) Award Ceremony** took place on Tuesday, May 21st. This year the Westwood Rotary, along with the Y&FS department, recognized three high school students who showed an extraordinary commitment to community service: **Phillip Bligh, Elizabeth Bunker, and Kayla Dolley**.

*At the WHS Graduation Ceremony on June 2nd, the **WY&FS' Joan Courtney Murray Mentor Scholarship** was presented to seven recipients from the Class of 2019 who demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the WY&FS Mentor program during their high school years. This year's recipients were: **Abaigael Belcher, Michelle Bernard, Emily Foscaldo, Andrew Mazzola, Madeline Medina, Anna Meglan, and Nora Sinno**.

*Our **Graduate Interns** have completed their spring semester courses and are getting closer to their end dates with Y&FS. Both Emily and Breann have been wonderful to work with this year. Emily will end her field placement with us on June 20th, and Breann will be with us through the end of July.

*Sarah and Nina, with help from Graduate Intern, Breann, will be conducting the third year of their summer program, **Creative Craft Club**. Registration is already open and spots are filling for this free program that gives elementary aged residents the opportunity to make great crafts around themes such as mindfulness, goal setting and personal strengths.

Community Connections

*On Friday, June 7th, Westwood hosted the **Massachusetts Municipal Association Human Services Council's (MMA HSC) Annual Meeting** at the Main Library. The guest speakers were from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and spoke about programs that seek to prevent homelessness and provide resources to those in need of transitional assistance, as well as related agencies such as South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC). These are all resources that have been and continue to be used in Westwood.

IV. Old Business

New Board Member Process: Mary Ellen announced that Christy Harrison, Diana Martucci and Mary-Carol Waters will be seeking appointment to the advisory board. The three will be meeting soon with the town administrator and Danielle. After these meetings, the town Select Board will vote this summer on their appointment to the board.

Recognize A Youth Award – Mary Ellen shared a newspaper article on the R.A.Y. Award recipients. Westwood High School seniors, Philip Bligh and Kayla Dolley, along with junior Elizabeth Bunker were honored at a Tuesday, May 21st reception at the Main Library.

V. New Business:

Nomination Procedure & Bylaw Review for FY20: Danielle stated that the board will take time in FY20 to review update the bylaws to include a more formal process for future nominations for board positions.

Community Liaisons:

Westwood Cares: Danielle discussed the group's plans for next year. The group will be searching for a new vice-chair and will be updating their strategic plan. The group will be hosting a full talk with John Mattleman, the former director of Needham Youth Services on the "Secret Life of Teens." The talk for parents will focus on communication with their children around substance abuse.

Westwood Police Department: Brad stated that 150 candidates took a recent entrance exam. The department hopes to hire four to five more officers.

Elementary Schools: Diana gave an update on 5th grade moving up ceremonies taking place along with Fisher School visits, field days and field trips. Brad stated that DARE visits to classrooms have wrapped up for the year.

Thurston Middle School: Jan spoke of the upcoming semi-formal for the 8th grade. The committee continues to seek 6th and 7th grade parent volunteers.

Westwood High School: Nora gave a recap of the recent graduation ceremony. The group had a discussion regarding the All Night Graduation Party. Brad mentioned the event, which has gone on for over twenty years is a large undertaking and the administration is hopeful that a new group of parents will volunteer to take it on for next year. There was discussion of reaching out to past graduates for assistance

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was called to adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen LaRose