

Holliston Youth Advisory Council

Present: Darlene Vittori-Marsell (Chair), Margaret Fitzpatrick, Kathy Cumming, Charlie Coughlin, Holly Fischer-Engel, Kassandra Couseillant, Jen Liebermann, Lynne Rahim, Andrew Frimpong.

Absent: Tyler Dunn, Peggy Payne.

Opening Remarks:

Charlie made a motion to open which was seconded by Lynne. Having a motion and a second, Council members unanimously agreed to open this meeting.

Jen made a motion to accept the December minutes which was seconded by Charlie.

Director's Report:

1. Margaret reports that December was very busy. She is currently unable to accept new clients and has referred several people to outside therapists.
2. Margaret attended the Police Department's meeting with other stakeholders to discuss results to the department's community survey. This was interesting and revealed how much Margaret's job has expanded and changed. There were several remarks regarding the importance of the relationship between the PD and HYFS in performing their jobs more effectively. The Selectmen and Mr. Ritter, among other town department heads, were in attendance.
3. Margaret attended Unity Day at Framingham State. This was a presentation put together by the MetroWest Human Services Advocacy Coalition. With the possible changes to healthcare, there was discussion about best to continue the work that Margaret does and how to advocate for clients and services.
4. Margaret and Lynne attended the January 18th Selectmen's meeting. Margaret discussed the need for a pay increase for the court diversion/clinician position (to make it commensurate with the education level, licensing and experience required by the position) that has been left unfilled for the past 7 months and discussed an increase in her own salary to bring it in line with salaries of those in similar positions, in surrounding communities. Margaret is currently paid about \$10,000 less than her counterparts. She informed Mr. Ritter of this discrepancy in salaries, months ago. Due to the fact that the position has been vacant for months, there is room in the budget to increase both salaries without changing the bottom line of the budget. The Selectmen said that they needed time to consider these issues. Margaret provided the Selectmen with salary comparison information.

A letter from this Board was sent to and received by the Selectmen prior to the Christmas holiday. The letter apprised them of the current unsustainable position that Margaret is in without a second clinician and the fact that it is felt that the low salary offered for this position is the reason that three candidates have declined the position and that there has been no further interest in the position. Lynne attempted to convey the urgency of the situation and pressed for a response date. The Selectmen asked for two weeks.

5. Lastly, the budget is due soon. Margaret feels that she will not be able to put the budget together until we have definitive response regarding the salaries.

New Business:

1. The Board discussed soliciting letters of support from departments Margaret works closely with, namely, HPS, HPD, HDAAC and HFD. Lynne will draft a letter and send to Darlene.

2. Margaret will provide Mr. Ritter and the Selectmen with Job Descriptions for both positions. She also has a call in to Mr. Marsden requesting to discuss issues directly.

3. The Board will be present as support for February 1st Selectmen's meeting.

4. There is still one Board seat available.

5. Charlie will follow up with John Drohan re: the Community Action Fund.

Closing Remarks: Kathy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Andrew seconded.

Next Meeting: The next YFS board meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the YFS office, 1750 Washington Street, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Lynne Rahim