

Holliston Youth Advisory Council

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

Absent: Tyler Dunn

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.

Peggy made a motion to accept the November minutes which was seconded by Jen.

There was also a motion by Charlie to accept the October minutes which was seconded by Kathy.

Director's Report:

1. Margaret reports that November was very busy. There was an increase in referrals of both therapy clients and court diversion clients. The Monster Ad has been up on-line for three weeks with no applications forthcoming. She has kept the town administrator, Mr. Ritter, abreast of the situation.
2. The town of Milford has rolled out a comprehensive response to opioid abuse in Milford. Holliston police requested a meeting to discuss what Holliston does to respond in a comprehensive way to opioid issues in our town. HPD shared information about what the police do for their part and there was a discussion about how they could work more closely with YFS to support that effort. The Mental Health specialist that assists them on calls and does follow-up with the client/family will let families know of YFS services and the HDAAC support group. In addition, the MH specialist, HDAAC and YFS will be working together to compile a resource manual to be shared within the community. Darlene suggested an on-line manual but isn't sure who could be responsible for maintaining it. Margaret will bring it up.
3. Lastly, Margaret will meet with Meg Camire, HPS Director of Student Services and the Nurse Specialist to discuss a brief assessment that they would like to put together in regards to student substance abuse.

New Business:

1. There is no news from HBA about the Community Action Fund (CAF). Charlie will ask former HBA President, John Drohan. Margaret states she has had no requests in 6 months but has not had time to pursue the reason why. She is unsure whether there is no longer a fund or funds are low.

2. The discussion turned once again to the difficult situation that Margaret is in, with the unfilled YFS position and Margaret covering the two positions since July. The discussion included how/where to advertise and whether the open position could be split and advertised as two positions. Margaret has spent close to \$1000 of her budget on advertising and feels at this time, that the problem is the low salary offered for the credentials/experience needed for this position. She has salary comparisons for other towns. She has not yet spoken directly to the Selectmen. She has had little response in the way of concrete help from Mr. Ritter. Margaret has been working long days and hours and feels as though both she and the program are losing momentum due to lack of help. She has never had to, but is at maximum and will need to start turning clients away. Darlene suggested and it was decided that the YFS board will write a letter to the Board of Selectmen to directly apprise them of the situation and to request a meeting.

Closing Remarks: Peggy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lynne seconded.

Next Meeting: The next YFS board meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at the YFS office, 1750 Washington Street, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Lynne Rahim