

Holliston Youth and Family Services Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting held on December 13, 2021

Present: Jen Liebermann (Chair), Kathy Cumming, Kate Cunningham, Kristen Haddad, Keri Norris, Peggy Payne, Matt Putvinski, Alison Quinan, Lynne Rahim, Kirsten Rancourt. Students: Brian Sahagian, Stephanie Farrell.

Absent: John Drohan

Opening Remarks:

Jen read the opening statement and rollcall attendance was called. Lynne made a motion to open the meeting which was seconded by Peggy. Having a motion and a second, Council members unanimously agreed to open this meeting at 7:05pm.

Kathy made a motion to accept the June minutes which was seconded by Kate. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Director's Report:

1. Kirsten Rancourt is acting as interim director whilst Jackie is out on her maternity leave. Kirsten apprised the council about November & December events and engagements (see Director's Report)
2. Keri is working with Sue Stone at HHS to make HDAAC a service learning opportunity and they are creating an application for students to apply.
3. Kirsten reported that the Town is looking at hiring an outside company to look at compensation for various step levels comparing Holliston with other peer towns. Kirsten's position falls within the scope of the steps being reviewed.
4. Kirsten reported an increase in HCAF requests for financial assistance. There have been 7 requests since the last HYFS meeting.
5. Holliston Police Department initiated the "Dinner on Us" program for the month of December. Using a contact list of Holliston families in need, HPD picks one family for each night in December and brings a hot meal to the family.
6. HYFS has accepted four new families for clinical services for clear, short-term needs (not referred out).

7. Kirsten pointed out that the gender category was updated to reflect non-binary individuals.
8. Keri thanked Kirsten for being helpful and easy to work with.

New Business:

1. HDAAC Report –
 - a. As previously reported, the Town of Holliston was approved for \$25K in earmark monies from the State budget which may be used to: form a focus group for the Drug Free Community grant, training youth, or do Narcan training.
 - b. The current youth members of HDAAC are all seniors and will be graduating in June so there is a need to recruit new/younger students. Sue Stone is working to allow students credit for participating in HDAAC in the hopes that it will build student body participation.
 - c. The next HDAAC meeting will be on 12/14/21 at 6:30pm.
 - d. Kirsten suggested that Keri send the Zoom meeting link to the HYFS board.
2. Community Action Fund (CAF) Update – Lynne reported that the first annual Holiday Student Art Festival at Kamala Boutique was a good event which resulted in \$800 gross/\$600 net proceeds.
3. “Envisioning Future Holliston” – Matt reported that the committee has received about 250 responses so far to the survey. They will try to increase the outreach after the holiday in the hopes of securing more participation, especially from seniors in Town. Efforts to reach seniors may include: breakfasts or talks with seniors, possibly also paper surveys.
4. Student Board members update – Stephanie and Brian reported that HHS student are experiencing an increase in sickness, including flu. The winter sports season has started. One of Stephanie’s teachers has COVID.
5. Jackie’s performance review is due to the Town Administrator by 1/21/22. Jen shared that HYFS can add a narrative. Jackie will share her write-up with the HYFS board; Jen and Lynne will review it and the Board will subsequently need to vote to approve.
6. Jackie was granted permission to delay submission of the HYFS budget until March. Accordingly, the HYFS board will discuss the budget recommendations at the February meeting at which time the board will need to vote on the proposed budget prior to submission to the Town Administrator.
7. Peggy asked about when the Town would receive the results from the Metrowest Adolescent Mental Health Survey. The survey is done every two years and was last done in Holliston in 2018 and in the fall of 2021 due to COVID. The results will be posted in the spring of 2022. Kathy commented that, based on her experience administering the survey at her school for the last 10 years, the highlights of the survey usually come out in January with the full report following later in the spring.

Closing Remarks:

Alison motioned to adjourn the meeting and Lynne seconded. The meeting was adjourned at .

Next Meeting:

The next HYFS board meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Alison Quinan