

# Holliston Youth and Family Services Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting held on January 10, 2022

Present: Jen Liebermann (Chair), Kate Cunningham, John Drohan, Kristen Haddad, Peggy Payne, Matt Putvinski, Alison Quinan, Lynne Rahim, Kirsten Rancourt. Students: Stephanie Farrell.

Absent: Kathy Cumming, Brian Sahagian

## Opening Remarks:

Jen read the opening statement and rollcall attendance was called. Alison made a motion to open the meeting which was seconded by John. Having a motion and a second, Council members unanimously agreed to open this meeting at 7:07pm.

Peggy made a motion to accept the December 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 December events and engagements (see Director's Report)
2. Kirsten reported that Jackie's anticipated return date is 1/31/22. Kerri will continue at HYFS until June/July.
3. Kirsten noted that the period included in the Director's Report includes the HPS winter break and holidays so there were fewer meetings.
4. Keri attended a DFC meeting with Melissa Stacy and Amanda Decker. The \$25K earmark monies came through and HDAAC can start using that money now.
5. Kirsten reported that the trend for calls for financial assistance continues. As of tonight's meeting HYFS has received 7 requests from families related to financial needs. Two of the families were able to be referred out to the Good Neighbor program and to the Holliston Pantry Shelf for assistance.
6. Kirsten noted that the majority of referrals are deemed "self-referred", which means that clients learn of HYFS through word of mouth, friend/family, or from a community or school resource list and call HYFS directly. This is different from when the school or another agency initiates the call on behalf of a client or family.

## New Business:

1. HDAAC Report –
  - a. As previously reported, the Town of Holliston was approved for \$25K in earmark monies which has been received and can start being used.
  - b. Kirsten reported that Melissa Stacy will be stepping down as chairperson for HDAAC in February after the grant is completed and submitted but will continue to stay involved in the Coalition. HDAAC is looking for a new chairperson.
  - c. Jen asked how this may impact Kirsten and Jackie – i.e., will it mean more work for HYFS? Kirsten answered that she expects that she and Jackie will help as much as they can.
  - d. The next HDAAC meeting will be on 1/11/22.
2. Community Action Fund (CAF) Update –
  - a. John reported that things are picking up. Some requests are continuations of help with housing assistance, but CAF is not built to pay rent on an ongoing basis. If things continue to pick up, CAF will need to raise more money in order to help needy families.
  - b. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Student Art Show fundraiser was a success (see December minutes). Doug Lack, chair of the HHS Art Department was a great partner and helped provide contributions of art work from HHS students.
  - c. John reports that CAF and HYFS are becoming more interconnected in providing financial assistance.
3. “Envisioning Future Holliston” –
  - a. Matt reported that the committee may develop a second survey in an effort to dig deeper into some of the initial survey responses. Common responses relate to the importance of the schools and a desire to keep downtown traditional.
  - b. The Committee is still on track to present at the May Town Meeting.
  - c. Matt noted that the Committee has \$0 budget, so trying to reach senior citizens in town without using technology is a challenge when there is no money available to the committee. Also, Covid concerns are making it hard to meet with senior citizens in person. He hopes that it will be easier in February to consider in-person meetings.
4. Student Board members update –
  - a. Stephanie reported that there are a lot of HHS students absent, and some teachers are also out of school due to illness.
  - b. The current semester ends on 2/1/22.
  - c. Rumors about the schools going remote are stressing out students. But Stephanie feels that kids are being better about wearing masks in school.
  - d. Some hockey games were postponed due to rink closure.

5. Discussion regarding Director's mid-cycle evaluation –
  - a. The HYFS Council will submit a narrative summary to the Town Administrator along with Jackie's self-evaluation which was previously shared with the Council members for review.
  - b. Lynne has communicated to the Town Administrator that this particular mid-cycle review includes the time period when Jackie was out on maternity leave.
  - c. Matt made a motion to accept the mid-cycle review and Jackie's self-evaluation. John seconded the motion and the Council voted unanimously in favor to accept the mid-cycle review and self-evaluation.

Closing Remarks:

Matt moved to adjourn the meeting and John seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Next Meeting:

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

Respectfully Submitted By: Alison Quinan