



NORWICH YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

November 10, 2009
ROOM 335, NORWICH CITY HALL
(860) 823-3782 - FAX (860) 892-6031
Email: nyfs@cityofnorwich.org

MINUTES

The Norwich Youth and Family Services Advisory Board Meeting was held on November 10, 2009 in Room 335 in Norwich City Hall. Those in attendance were as follows:

Kay Eyberse-Coordinator
Lisa Maclure-Staff
Vouise Fonville
Jodi M. Vara
Ashley Sebastian
Hilary Sandberg-Staff
Janet Paton

Soledad Metcalfe
Angela Rae Duhaime
Connie Labasi
Debbie Kievits
Francesco Stranges-Curcio
Molly Murkett
Duncan Profitt

Kay Eyberse called the meeting to order. Kay started the meeting by having everyone introduce him/herself, sign in and update any email information. Introduced were new NHS staff member Lisa Maclure of the Young Parents Program, Ashley Sebastian who is the Youth Member of the Advisory Board for the year and the Bully Busters Youth Members, Molly Murkett and Francesco Stranges-Curcio.

The adopted minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting were distributed and the accepted minutes were approved.

Quarterly Report~A stats sheet was distributed showing the totals of youth who were involve with services offered by NHS and NYFS. These totals covered the time period of July 1- September 30, 2009.

Program/Collaboration Updates~All youth programs were briefly discussed. The highlights of some of the programs discussed were as follows:

- Young Parents Program~Lisa Maclure provides case management for 14-24 year old pregnant or new parents. Lisa will focus on employment, education, and parenting skills.
- Adopt a Family~NHS annual Christmas program assisting financially needy families by matching a sponsor to a family to provide gifts for their children. NHS is currently looking for sponsors who would like to make a difference in the lives of needy children this holiday season. Sponsors request what size family they would feel comfortable assisting. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call Lisa Maclure or Candace Bodenhofer at (860) 823-3778.
- Norwich Youth and Family Services is celebrating its 35th anniversary next year. If anyone has any suggestions on events to celebrate or would like to participate in anyway, please let Kay Eyberse know.

New Business~

- Recruitment continues for new Board members. The discussion focused on trying to get parents and businesses, which deal with the youth population, to join as Board Member. The more input we can get from the community the better informed we will be on the needs of youth and families in the community as a whole.
- Revised copied of the by-laws were distributed. The changes involve Article VI and now state that the Advisory Board will meet the second Tuesday the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. A vote was taken to accept the new changes in the by-laws and passed.
- An Adopt-a-Program plan was discussed where Board Members can “adopt” one of the youth programs the Board is involved with in order to learn more in detail about how the program works. It was asked that you “adopt” a program that you are not currently involved with.
- Vouise Fonville of DCF discussed Differential Response and how it can benefit both the community and families involved with the problem. With Differential Response less substantial cases DCF receives can be referred to other agencies in the area, which are equipped to deal with the issue at hand. Also individuals calling DCF on a voluntary basis looking for minimal help can be referred to other area agencies. With Differential Response it will help prevent people who shouldn't be listed on a State maintained Central Registry, just because they needed assistance and called DCF.

Program Updates~

- Bully Busters Director Debbie Kievits distributed The Bully Buster November newsletter and discussed some events they were involved with. The Youth & Democracy Challenge took place on October 15, which was a Norwich City Council candidate forum. This event was organized and conducted by Bully Buster and NAACP teens. All twelve candidates attended and were asked six questions that were created by the youths involved. A community garden is being planned and constructed at 11 Mechanic St. The garden will be large enough to provide food for area soup kitchens and also rent out lots to individuals for their own use. The Rose City Land Trust makes this garden possible.
- The next Parent's Retreat will be held on December 14 from 6-7:30pm with the evenings topic being *Balancing Work and Family. What about you?* This program will be held at Norwich Youth and Family Services, 80 Broadway.

Wrap-Up~Two questions were posed for thought, they were

- “What does Youth and Family Services need from me?”
- “What can Youth and Family Services do for me?”

Next Board meeting will be January 12, 2010 from 8:30-9:30am. Room 335 in City Hall
Refreshments will be served.

All are welcome!