



## NORWICH YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2009  
ROOM 335, NORWICH CITY HALL  
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# MINUTES

The Norwich Youth and Family Services Advisory Board Meeting was held on October 13, 2009 in Room 335 in Norwich City Hall. Those in attendance were as follows:

Kay Eyberse-Coordinator  
Jodi M. Vara-  
Pat Dixe-Staff  
Connie Labasi  
Debbie Kievits  
Sheila Molocko-Staff

Vouise Fonville  
Janet Paton  
Angela Rae Duhaime  
Angelo Callis-Staff  
Sherry Filiatreault-Staff  
Duncan Proffitt

Kay called the meeting to order. Portfolios were distributed containing general information about Youth Service Bureaus and specific information regarding NYFS. The Annual Report to DOE was included and reviewed, as were the goals and objectives for the coming year.

The staff proceeded to review the following program areas:

- Kay reported on the Young Parent's Program-defunct in November of 2008-the YPP case manager is being recalled from layoff as NYFS has been awarded a \$87,000 Federal grant to bring back the program. The case management approach will focus on education, job training, and positive parenting skills. Our goal is that Norwich teens will become functional adults and be able to provide their children with a positive start in life.
- Sherry reported on Children First Norwich/Leadership-Both Teen Leadership and Voices for Families are scheduled to begin in January and are actively recruiting participants. It will be held at Three Rivers Community College and CEU's will be awarded for successful completion. Sherry continues to work on the massive community enhancement plan which has major support from UCFS, TVCCA, NPS, and the City of Norwich.
- Pat reported on youth training and employment-Cool directions is currently recruiting for the 2009/2010 school year The program is for high school students in their junior or senior year who are seeking to improve their futures through career exploration, job shadowing and/or internship experiences. Pat also reviewed the highly successful Summer Youth Employment Program. Norwich Youth and Family Services took 201 young people through the application process and trained, hired and placed 124. Pat also outlined her work with The Aspire Program. This is a collaboration with Kelly and Teachers Memorial Middle Schools and is part of our partnership with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant. The program provides a mini

COOL Directions Program for 11 – 13 year olds. The focus is on career exploration and work skills.

- Angelo reported on his work within the juvenile justice area including the Juvenile Review Board, the Families With Service Board and the Kelly Middle School diversion group. He also outlined NYFS's Parent's Retreat, a monthly topic driven support group for parents. It takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month from 6-7:30 . October 19<sup>th</sup>'s topic "*Yes, they're in middle school but they still need you*" *Building good relationships with your kid's school.*

During the "New Business" portion of the agenda Kay reported on recruitment for the Advisory Board and again, introduced Angela Duhaime and Duncan Profitt. Jodi Vera reminded the Board that Ashley Sebastien had been the designated "Youth Member" Kay will follow through on reconnecting with Ashley.

Kay also reported on the upcoming Results Based Accountability training required by the Department of Education. This will be a series of 4 intensive trainings offered to all Youth Service Bureaus. We will then be required to do a thorough review and restructuring of all services we provide and report back to the State. Funding will be based on "results" i.e. How much did we do? How well did we do it? (and) Is anyone better off? This research and new grant format must be done for the next grant cycle 2010/2011.

A discussion was had regarding the frequency of meetings. We currently meet 5X per year. It was suggested that regular bi-monthly meetings would be more engaging and informative. A motion was made to that effect by Jodi Vera. The motion was seconded by Janet Paton and was passed. Kay will make corrections to the by-laws for the next meeting for approval.

Jodi Vera was voted the Chairperson of the Norwich Youth and Family Services Advisory Board. The vote was unanimous. No other officers were nominated. Recruitment for other positions will continue.

A general discussion followed to address what Norwich Youth and Family Services needed from it's Board members. The staff concluded that they need Board members to:

- Help them come up with ideas to celebrate the Bureau's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Be open to looking for grant opportunities
- Be an advocate for NYFS.

Board members were also asked "What do you need from NYFS?" Kay offered to meet individually with any Board member to help them answer that question.

Next Board meeting November 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 (We hope) Room 335 City Hall

Refreshments will be served

All are welcome!