



CITY OF NORWICH

ESTABLISHED 1659

CONNECTICUT

NORWICH YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

75 Mohegan Road, Norwich, (860) 823-3782, Fax (860) 823-3793

MINUTES

Youth Advisory Board

May 10, 2022

3pm

In attendance: Jodi Savage (NFA), Erin Haggan (YFS), Sue Dubb (Uncas Health District), Teairez Atunbi (DCF), Kim Seifert-Charles (Waterford Juvenile Court), Jon Turban (NPS), Cara-Lynn Turner (Community Member Awaiting Appointment)

Absent: Leopoldine Bertrand (Unexcused), Jen Croce (Excused), Bob McKinney (Excused)

Vacancies: Community Member (1), Norwich Tech (1), Youth Representative (1)

1. Old Business

- **Motion to Approve Minutes from November 2021, January 2022, and March 2022:** Jodi so moved, Teairez seconds, motion passes.
- **Parent Social Night:** Held on March 24 530-7, at the Rose City Senior Center. Well-attended and very successful event. Games, interactive activities, food for parents/children and free childcare. Project Outreach planned fun activities for the children. NEXT ONE to be held JUNE 1, same time and place.

2. New Business

- **Board Elections/Membership:**
 - Sue motions for Kim to be Secretary, Teairez seconds, all in favor. Kim accepts.
 - Elections for other positions to be held in November. Erin to send out positions/responsibilities, and by-laws to the Board in the interim.
 - One Community Member spot still open following Cara appointment.
 - Youth Rep has not attended in several weeks, Board members asked to spread the word to young people that may be interested.
- **Upcoming Events/Resources:**
 - QPR Training, May 18th, 6-7pm at YFS
 - Parent Social Night, June 1st 530-7 Rose City Senior Center
 - Ongoing Parent Support Group, Mondays 6-7, St. Marks Church
 - NYFS Recruiting 5-8th graders for Summer Jam & Learn, 6 week Summer Program, Mon-Thurs 10-4 for at risk youth.

- Human Services has ARPA funding to support Norwich Residents with basic needs assistance, childcare, and City jobs for Norwich youth – call 860-823-3778 for more information.
- NPS hosting more district wide events, including Science, Math, Tech Event at Global Studies on May 12th 5-7pm
- Summer School to be held at Kelly STEAM, Moriarty, Mahan, Stanton & Huntington July 5-Aug 5, Mon-Friday. AM focused on hands on/holistic learning, PM to focus on outside providers bringing in enrichment opportunities, Friday field trips.
- Uncas Health still doing COVID vaccines for ages 5 and up. They still do home visits for vaccines 1x per week for those with mobility issues.
- **Open Discussion of Trends/Concerns in Community**
 - Schools seeing excessive use of 211 and ambulance for mental health emergencies. Looking for more proactive strategies, ways to create behavioral change before it escalates. Looking for ideas/strategies (not trainings). Parent trainings not well attended, across the board.
 - Managing child and parent screen time is a concern. Finding more opportunities for meaningful connection between parents and children. Helping parents see the value in decreased screen time.
 - Court is seeing an increase in cases, many related to inappropriate texting, among younger kids.
 - Overarching concern related to lack of access to services due to lengthy wait lists.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022 3pm

Location: TBD
