

YOUTH COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING**MEETING MINUTES****June 17, 2021****Attendance:**

Board members: Joan Clementi, Jennifer Lipton-O'Connor, Casey Rickli and Sandy Scott
Staff members: Doreen Genna, Office Assistant and Ayako Reich, Counselor

Motion to Open the Meeting: Made by Jennifer Lipton-O'Connor, seconded by Casey Rickli

Next meeting Date: September 16, 2021 (Location TBD: Zoom or In-Person?)

Review of Minutes: Minutes from both April 15, 2021 and May 20, 2021 were Approved

Director's Report: Made by Ayako Reich

- Fall Recruitment Plan for ARHS Student Liaisons – Jennifer has offered to follow-up with the recruitment process at both ARHS and St. John's in Shrewsbury
- Update on Case Presentation made by Ayako at last meeting – Ayako reviewed the client's situation; charitable organizations have helped the family by paying bills; the clients are working on lowering their expenses; we are looking at more financial resources to help them.
- Status of New Program Ideas presented by Ayako:
 1. Support Group – this idea was presented at the May meeting by Sherry Clark, who felt that there is a need for a support group for Northborough families dealing with mental health issues. The target date for the implementation of such a group would be September 2021. Questions that need to be addressed are:
 - (a) Which population do we start with?
 - (b) Day and time of meeting?
 - (c) Will the meeting(s) be virtual, in-person or hybrid?
 2. Summer activities – June and Ayako spoke with Allie Lane (Recreation Department) about her experiences regarding activities for the children in Northborough. Based on their conversation, it was decided that this program should begin in the Spring of 2022. Board members stated that many of the activities run by the Recreation Department were fee-based, thus possibly excluding many of the Town's families.

During this presentation, Joan Clementi mentioned that dances were very popular; despite there being a fee charged for attendance at these dances. Members felt that by charging a fee, many students would not be able to attend; thus, the current plan is to offer the program free-of-charge.

- The “D” Family was presented by Doreen. The father and son were referred to FYS by the Police Department. FYS has been working closely with this family who has lived in this country for a relatively short period of time. This work has involved the use of an interpreter (recommended by Rhoda Webb of the School Department), case management services, family counseling, and collaboration with others. Several referrals were also offered to the family including INTERFACE Referral Services. FYS is currently attempting to find an organization that specializes in immigrant resettlement.

Board Members & Student Liaisons: Jennifer raised the question of the relationship between the Youth Commission and Family & Youth Services. Based on the cases that have been presented to the Board in this meeting and the one in May, both are family related and not directly youth related. She asked for more clarification on how FYS and the Youth Commission support each other. Sandy Scott and Ayako further explained this relationship. After this clarification, Jennifer stated that she had some students/families that might benefit from contact with FYS, and she would look further into this matter.

There were no Board Member updates.

Other Business: We briefly revisited the idea of fee versus no fee for programs established by this Commission. The Commission feels that this may exclude many of the children who may benefit the most from any planned activities.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: Made by Casey Rickli, seconded by Jennifer Lipton-O’Connor