

Madison Youth and Family Services Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2016

In Attendance: Kathy Rossini, Jennifer McLain, David Buller, Jennifer Winalski (MYFS), Erin Corbett (MYFS), Tony Doina, Stephanie Hoffman, Patrick Fahey, Jason Ulstad, Jen Bruciati, Lianne Herdle, Joan Walker, Joe Race, Scott Cochran, Art Symonds, Mary Lorenz, Paula Steere

No Citizens' comments

Lianne motioned to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2016 meeting, Tony seconded, minutes approved with 2 abstentions.

There was no correspondence.

Art provided the Treasurer's Report and indicated that there's nothing of note to report.

Staff Update: Erin Corbett, School Based Clinician at DHHS, Jennifer Winalski, School Based Clinician at Brown and Polson

Erin has been with MYFS for over 8 years. She is the school based clinician at DHHS, and does counseling as well. Jennifer Winalski is the school based clinician at Brown and Polson, and has been with MYFS for just a few weeks.

Erin described her role at DHHS. She sees some students long-term, some sporadically, some once. She runs the drug and alcohol program which is for students who have been caught violating the drug/alcohol policy at Hand. Runs GASP (21 active members); took 18 kids to the True Colors conference at UConn this past week. Involved in Day of Silence, which will be later in April. Working with students on "End the Trend", aimed at ending the use of the word "faggot". Co-leads LIFE with Derrick; worked on stress-relief during exams. Working on last trimester exam stress relief for the last day of finals. Will begin planning for this summer's community service program (train about 15-20 students per summer, all prior trainees are invited back).

Jennifer is looking to bring to middle school many of the programs that run at Hand. Sees lots of anxiety, depression, academic pressure in the middle school community. Looking to start a "less stress" program at Polson. Jennifer took over Angela's case load. Joan asked whether Jennifer saw an increase in stress due to the recent standardized testing, and Jennifer acknowledged that she did see it in some students.

Student Report

Patrick reported that the students presented "A Chorus Line" this weekend, and it was excellent. AP testing is coming up in a couple of weeks, as is the Show Choir trip. Spring sports also started recently.

Jen reported that virtually all seniors have heard from their colleges by now and are making their selections. Senior slump is in full stride. Scholarship applications are due this Friday.

Discussion of 3/15/16 presentation by MYFS/MADE and the "Data Roll Out Group" to joint BOS/BOE members.

Patrick let a group of students who recently presented some of the findings from the MADE survey to the BOS/BOE. Students wanted to call attention to the stress data as well as the percent of students who reported that they have attempted suicide. The group is planning to invite Mr. Scarice, Mr.

Salutari, Mrs. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Banisch to a follow-up meeting for further discussion. Scott complimented the students on leading a productive, informative discussion. The students met after the presentation and came up with a set of suggestions that Scott shared with the MYFS Board.

David presented an update on the Youth Stress Task Force. The group has a Community Conversation on Youth Stress scheduled for 4/21/16 at the Senior Center from 6:45pm – 8:30pm.

Jason and Joan confirmed Scott's statement that there are no anticipated changes to the MYFS budget. Scott discussed a concern regarding potential State cuts to youth services budgets. There is a belief that some of the cuts would impact grants MYFS currently receives. Joan, Jason, and Scott will keep us posted on any impact to the budget.

Staffing Update

There's currently an opening for a family therapist (part time, 10 hours/week).

If the budget is approved, we will be running additional peer helper programs, which would require additional staffing.

Scott is still pursuing re-organizing the department to better classify several (four) staff members.

Director's Report

Scott described several events that are occurring in April/May. Parent Academy on stress and anxiety; Brown Internet Safety presentation; Social Media presentation by School Resource Office Rosati.

Tony suggested that perhaps we could coordinate with another YSB when applying for a grant if we don't have sufficient resources/demand to meet the needs of the grant in Madison alone (for example, number of kids who have experienced trauma).

Scott is heading to Virginia with Catherine Barden to attend a conference on alcohol.

Scott will be presenting the Long Range Plan to the Board in May.

Discussion Re: MYFS Co-Sponsoring Events

Scott received an invitation to co-sponsor an R.J. Julia' event, "Unselfie". This will be different than the last co-sponsor event in that it will not cost participants money.

Mary thinks it sounds like a good topic to be a part of. Tony doesn't think there's any downside to being associated with Julia's, but thinks we should make sure we understand what the book is really about before committing.

Kathleen asked the Board to engage in a discussion about co-sponsoring a for-profit event. Mary suggested our participation include some parameters, such as a) no fee, b) we lead a discussion afterwards. Kathleen talked to the positive press that the last event provided, and agreed with Scott's assessment that building awareness of MFYS's programs is definitely something that is needed. Lianne suggested we publicize that free tickets are available on request; Scott prefers to make the tickets free as a condition. David and Art felt that we shouldn't sponsor events that cost participants money. Stephanie's gut feeling is that we shouldn't be teaming up with a for-profit events. Kathy suggested that we might be able to leverage the MADE organization to co-sponsor the for-profit events.

Scott would like us to consider future events as long as they are educational and meet the needs of the MYFS community, pending Board approval of each event.

Kathleen asked for a motion to approve co-sponsoring “UnSelfie” and for the Board to vote on future co-sponsoring opportunities. Motion was made by Jennifer; seconded by Lianne. Discussion: Tony wants to ensure that the book is properly vetted prior to the event. The Motion carried unanimously.

FOMY Report (made by Joan for Joe Walker)

6th grade dance was a success. Play is underway in rehearsal. Success of skate park is unclear; weather has not been cooperating.

Upcoming dance on 4/22/16 for 7th and 8th graders.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:43pm.