

DRAFT
Madison Youth and Family Services Board
Minutes from May 3, 2016

In attendance: D. Buller, K. Dess, T. Doina, S. Hoffman, J. McLain, A. Symonds, P. Fahey, J. Bruciati,
Captain Race.
Staff: S. Cochran, L. Castrilli
Absent: L. Herdle, A. Kaplan, M. Lorenz, K. Rossini, J. Ulstad, P. Steere, J. Walker, Joe Walker

I. Chairperson's Comments

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Citizen's Comments

None

III. Approval of April 5, 2016 minutes

Kathleen thanked David for taking the minutes last month, he did a great job. Motion to approve the April 5, 2016 minutes was made by D. Buller and seconded by A. Symonds. Motion approved.

IV. Correspondence

- Thank you note from Town of Stratford Community Services to Melissa and Derek for offering their expertise regarding the Safe Rides program. The Town of Stratford would like to start a Safe Rides program and asked for some guidance on how to start up the program.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Nothing to report

VI. Budget Update

- Board of Selectmen met last night to go over the budget. Joan Walker provided the Board of Selectman members with budget alternatives, including a way to restore \$5200 to MYFS. We will not pursue getting the additional request to add to the Peer Helper program. BOS will propose this to the Board of Finance and if they approve, it will go to referendum. Wednesday is the deadline for the state to make a decision on the budget unless they go into special session. We have not heard anything about the money for the grants for the Youth Services Bureau. Kathleen commended Scott for his positive leadership style through this process.

VII. Staff Presentation

None

VIII. Student Report

- AP testing starts on Monday
- DHHS had a Blood Drive last week
- All seniors have heard from colleges and know where they will be going.
- May 14 is the Junior Prom at the high school.
- June 1 exams start.
- June 4 is the Senior Prom at AquaTurf
- June 8 is the Senior brunch at Woodwinds.
- National Honor Society had 34 inductees and Patrick Fahey was one of them. Congratulations Patrick.
- Seniors will be going to Roger Williams Zoo for an outing.

- If the Girls LaCrosse team makes it to the state finals the final game will be June 11 the day after Night in Hand.
- Day of Silence to support the LGBT community was held at the high school and it went well.
- Students had a meeting with the First Selectman, Superintendent of Schools and Principal at DHHS on stress. They were very respectful and listened to all that the students had to say. The students suggested starting a group in the morning during the PAW group and come up with a lesson plan on time management skills and stress.
- Kathleen asked Jen if she would reflect on her time at High School and she said she felt it was a very positive experience. The school is open and accepting. She will reflect more at the last meeting.
- Last day of school is June 10.

IX. Youth Stress Task Force Report – David Buller and Art Symonds

- There was a meeting 2 weeks ago with the Stress Task Force, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, students, parents, and staff from Madison Youth and Family Services. There was a good discussion and a lot of questions for the students. A Mindfulness Group came in from the community to show stress reduction exercises. The school system would like to start some groups at the elementary level. David and Art both agreed that it seems like the same number of people come to these meetings and we need to try to reach more people. They feel that the schools should be the driving force to get more people out to these meetings.

X. Staffing Update

- Vacant Family Therapist position – there was one applicant who came in for an interview, very qualified. Angela is checking on references.
- Update on reorganization plan – Scott went over the organizational flow chart for Madison Youth and Family Services. There are 4 positions that Scott would like to work on to reorganize the office, two prevention positions and two administrative positions. The time line for reorganizing the office is the prevention positions in time for the start of the next school year. Scott will work to reorganize the administrative positions by next January. He would also like to see the MADE positions under the town umbrella in the next years budget cycle.

XI. Presentation of Long Term Plan and Capacity Building

- This presentation was tabled until the next meeting. The date of the next meeting might change in order to accommodate more members to attend. An email will be sent out to the board members to see which date is better for everyone.

XII. Directors Report

- R.J. Julia’s book store cancelled book presentation “Unselfie” for June.
- Scott and Catherine went to Arlington, VA to an Alcohol Policy Conference. He said it was worthwhile and they brought back good information on how alcohol is marketed to youth and a Youth 2 Youth Campaign.
- Melissa is looking into a Summer Work Alliance Grant from the Dept. of Labor, for 14-21 year old students to be placed in the work force for the summer for 15 hours a week. This is in the beginning stages, if they get the grant, Melissa and Derek will be job coaches at the job sites.
- Scott had a meeting at Island Ave. School to discuss possible piloting of school-based counseling from MYFS staff and interns.

XIII. Friends of Madison Youth – Joe Walker

- There was no report - Joe Walker was not at the meeting.
- David Buller brought up the fact that the Arts Barn had a dance and it was the first night of Passover. He shared that he contacted FOMY board re this oversight.

XIV. Adjourn

- K. Dess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. J. McLain seconded the motion. Motion carried.