

Subject to Approval
Madison Youth and Family Services Board
Minutes from January 12, 2021

In Attendance: A. Aron, P. Davies, K. Dess, D. Buller, S. Snyder, J. Daignault, R. Xeller, A. Symonds, D. McMahon, S. Murphy, K. Kilbourn, J. Bowler, B. Skudder, Sergeant Yorke

Staff: S. Cochran, M. Fahey, P. Butler, D. Cornwell, M. Balletto, K. Volz

Absent: J. Fitzgerald, L. LaPorta, J. Rogers

I. Welcome and Chairperson Comments

D. Buller called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

D. Buller welcomed new board members B. Skudder and J. Bowler.

D. Buller asked that all introduce themselves to the new board members.

II. Citizens Comments

None

III. Approval of December 8, 2020 minutes

Motion to approve the December 8, 2020 minutes was made by R. Xeller and seconded by K. Dess.

New members B. Skudder and J. Bowler abstained.

IV. Correspondence

S. Cochran read 2 of the many holiday/thank you cards received at MYFS.

V. Treasurer's Report - A. Aron

- A. Aron reported that the Sunshine Fund has \$140. Members may drop off their voluntary donation to Sunshine at the MYFS office.
- Motion to approve the following donations was made by S. Snyder and seconded by R. Xeller. Motion approved.

- A donation of \$500 in Walmart gift cards from Clarity.
- An anonymous donation of \$350 in various gift cards.
- A donation of \$1,000 from the Madison Jaycees for \$500 in Roberts and Stop and Shop Gift Cards and a \$500 check.
- A donation of \$300 in Stop and Shop Gift Cards from the Madison Teacher's Union.

Motion to approve the following donation was made by B. Skudder and seconded by K. Dess:

- A donation of \$30,000 from N2N for the COVID Relief Program.
- Motion Approved.
- S. Cochran reported that since March 2020, the MYFS Covid Relief Program which has been funded by Neighbor-2-Neighbor, has helped 70 households with \$78,000 expended to date.
- Thank you to Neighbor-2-Neighbor.

VI. Staff Presentation – Melissa Balletto, Asst. Director, PYD and PYD Staff.

- K. Volz led the Board through a typical ‘energizer’ exercise that staff might do with their groups.
- M. Balletto reported that in the spring--they learned how to ‘zoom’ in a few days and began meeting virtually with all of their groups.
- M. Balletto reported on the positive aspects of virtual meetings for their groups.
 - Groups met virtually throughout the summer—which was not done previous to Covid.
 - Peer Helpers met for training in 7 separate sessions instead of for a weekend away-allowing students who participate in sports or who might have been uncomfortable being away from home to participate.
- M. Balletto reported that Peer Advocate Alumni meetings are now being held weekly, instead of monthly.
- Girls United has been meeting and has been baking with younger girls and distributing baked goods at Yale-New Haven Hospital and Life Haven.
- Peer Advocate training meetings and recruitment is also virtual.
- All other groups continue to meet virtually, weekly.
- P. Butler reported that she has been meeting with parents of Peer Helpers to help provide a space for parents to talk about concerns.
- D. Cornwell hosted the Holiday Movie Trivia night.
- D. Cornwell discussed video game concerns as it relates to the pandemic.
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VII. Student Report – Jake Daignault and Darian McMahon

- J. Daignault reported that Valor (the Youth Coalition) will be meeting with The Walden Clinic to discuss issues related to eating disorders.
 - The meeting with the Walden Clinic will be videotaped to put up on the Enlighten website.
- Enlighten link:
- <https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fview%2Fenlightendhhs%2Fhome&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFFAQCTrBYOkUg3Y6XPHdDgP4bEUA>
- J. Daignault discussed the future Valor presentation of what it is like to be part of Gen Z.
- D. McMahon discussed Wellness Wednesdays at DHHS.

- Most students like the break, whether remote or at school.
- Wellness Wednesdays allows students to relieve stress by being with friends (socially distanced), doing homework (though homework is not encouraged during this free time) or connecting with teachers.
- During Wellness Wednesdays, students can visit their own teachers or visit with other teachers that may have a movie on or something else of interest in their classrooms.
- J. Daignault discussed the college application process and the stress involved with applying and waiting for admission.
- D. McMahon reported that winter sports will start in 2 weeks.
- J. Daignault discussed the email from the new superintendent sent after the events of January 6, 2021 in Washington DC and how it was received well among the students at DHHS.

VIII. Director's Report

- S. Cochran reported that MYFS programs are continuing virtually with a few clinical clients being seen in person.
- S. Cochran discussed the remote schedule for town employees.
- S. Cochran discussed the recent DHHS PTO meeting that he attended.
- S. Cochran shared information from a meeting he had with our new State Representative J.M. Parker regarding the legislative session and future funding for Youth Service Bureaus.
- S. Cochran gave an update on the budget process.
 - S. Cochran will present the MYFS budget at 7pm on 1-21-21 at the Budget Workshop and asked for any board members who were available, to attend that portion of the workshop meeting.
- S. Cochran discussed the Work Study on Clinical Services which is now in draft form.
 - S. Cochran asked for members to join a focus group to review the evaluation.
 - Board members will receive an email with more information.
- S. Cochran asked board members to follow MYFS on social media and to share our posts.

IX. Liaison Report—S. Murphy, Board of Selectman

- S. Murphy updated the board on the vaccination process.
- S. Murphy gave an update on the Future Use Committee regarding Island Avenue School.

X. Open Board – Board members encouraged to ask questions and provide input.

XI. Chairperson's Comments—D. Buller, Vice Chair

- D. Buller shared the MYFS Board Meeting schedule for 2021.
- Motion to accept the meeting schedule was made by R. Xeller and seconded by J. Bowler.
Motion approved.

XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.