

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: February 7, 2023

7:00 pm

Meeting Place: Memorial Town Hall

Madison Youth and Family Services Minutes

David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 2-7-2023 to order at 7:02 pm. Also, in attendance were: A. Aron, R. Xeller, B. Skudder, C. McGrady, R. McMillian, K. Rasimas, S. Snyder, G. McGrimely and MYFS staff: S. Cochran, A. Ahern, M. Bransfield, S. Sutcliffe and P. Marchese.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome—David Buller, Chairperson.
 - D. Buller welcomed everyone.
 - D. Buller noted the meeting is a week earlier to due to Valentine's Day falling on the second Tuesday this month.
3. D. Buller read C. Maisano's letter of resignation from MYFS Board effective 1/20/23.
4. D. Buller stated that the Board now has an open seat and R. Xeller shared that applications are currently being reviewed for the nomination.
5. Prior minutes from 1/10/2023 approved. Motion made by R. Xeller and seconded by D. Buller.
6. Public Comment – None
7. Correspondence – None

OLD BUSINESS

8. Status update on Budget and special projects:
 - Budget Workshops are completed although additional information can be requested by BOS or BOF.
 - MYFS 40th Anniversary on March 16th will include town leaders, Board and staff members, as well as supporters within the community as we mark our 40th year serving the community together. S. Cochran noted a few special connections.
 - S. Cochran thanked S. Murphy for reading the MYFS Proclamation aloud at the Board of Selectman's meeting last month.
 - MYFS 40th Anniversary Celebration has been set as an official meeting and agenda will be submitted to the town reflecting that plan. S. Cochran indicated he would be available to address any topic that may arise prior to

the following standard MYFS Board meeting scheduled for April 4, 2023 held at the Surf Club at 7:00 pm.

9. Treasurer's Report – Andrea Aron

Motion made by R. Xeller and seconded by B. Skudder to approve the following donations:

- \$2,000.00 from the Madison Jaycees.
- \$850.00 donation of Stop and Shop Gift Cards from Neighbor-2-Neighbor.
- \$250.00 donation from an anonymous donor in memory of Noreen Kokoruda.
- \$325.00 donation from The Director Team of Essex Meadows, on behalf of Kathleen Dess

S. Cochran noted that while K. Dess was absent from the Board meeting this week, he spoke with her regarding the donation, and she was touched and happy to be have this donation made on her behalf.

- R. Xeller reported that those receiving support will see less in the coming months. SNAP benefits will be returning to their previous level from prior to the pandemic
- Food needs will likely increase as the additional \$500.00 pandemic allowance is going away as well as the possibility of medical benefits ending.
- S. Cochran shared that Social Services is working preemptively with Neighbor-2-Neighbor to provide more food and energy assistance as need increases.

10. Staff update – Clinical Presentation by Angela Ahern and Contractual Clinicians, Maureen Bransfield and Sydney Sutcliffe

- A. Ahern - While dealing with the recent mental health crisis the need for services resulted in our waiting list to increase at one point to 50
- Currently, we have increased the number of staff with the addition of three very skilled contractual clinicians, five interns, and new PSC who started this week
- Within the last five years we have seen a steady increase in clients age ten and under.
- Clinical reported in general the complication of cases has increased since the pandemic and many parents are seeking therapy for mood dysregulation
- Clinicians are finding that additional time is needed for case management when working with young children and families.

- A. Ahern introduced the Board to M. Bransfield a MYFS contractual clinician. M. Bransfield shared her background as a Daniel Hand High School graduate who comes to us with a wealth of knowledge as an alternative high school principal for 32 years now retired and in private practice. She provides services for MYFS as her skills match the needs of our clients.
- A. Ahern then introduced the Board to S. Sutcliffe, also a Daniel Hand graduate, who interned at MYFS while completing her MSW. S. Sutcliffe has been serving MYFS as a contractual clinician while pursuing her licensure. S. Sutcliffe's caseload includes providing support and guidance for younger children and their families as well.
- S. Sutcliffe's role at MYFS is a separate role and quite different from her position as Social Worker at the high school. There is no overlap of services and her work at MYFS focuses on individual and family therapy for clients under the age of 14.
- Additionally, A. Ahern shared that after an extended search, the vacant Parent Support Coordinator position has been filled. Angela announced that Marisa Sierra is looking forward to working at MYFS
- MYFS Clinical services is able to work with clients to use their insurance and/or negotiate a fee that is affordable to them.
- D. Buller thanked A. Ahern and the clinical staff for the important work they do.

11. Student Update – R. Wahl

- R. Wahl shared her excitement for her group securing 21 “amazing” speakers for the Tedx Conference. The student-run Tedx program titled, “THAT MAKES TWO OF US”, will be held on March 10, 2023. The student run event has provided real world experience and has been a learning moment for the talented group of committed students. R. Wahl gave kudos to Principal Salutari for providing support and guidance while ensuring students hold the reins throughout the process.

12. Director's Report – Scott Cochran, Director

- The Architect who presented the initial design has been nominated by the Academy Building Committee for Academy School project.
- S. Cochran presented a concept for consideration, for the Board to form a sub-committee to consider 1) if the Board should play a role in determining how donation funds are utilized and 2) if yes then how might that process look.

- D. Buller asked that any Board member interested in joining the sub-committee to send a note to S Cochran and/or D. Buller. S Cochran will work to draft language for a committee charge and share that at the April Board Meeting.
13. Liaison Report – S. Murphy, Board of Selectman
- State of the town available for viewing on YouTube.
 - BOS has been busy with a number of issues including impact of sea level rise
 - Attention is also focused on the issues surrounding short-term rentals.
14. Open Discussion – G. McGrimely, Academy Advisory Committee
- G. McGrimely updated board on Academy Advisory meetings survey results over 2000 people, mostly Madison residents participated in the survey.
 - The Advisory Committee will meet with the Building Committee to discuss survey input G. McGrimely spoke about the complexities and importance of an HVAC system as well as the standard of equipment
 - A public presentation will occur in the future.
15. Chairperson’s Comment – David Buller, Board Chair
- D. Buller expressed thanks to all for their commitment to MYFS

Adjournment —Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting: March 16, 2023, Hubley Hall – 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Marchese
Administrative Assistant,
Madison Youth and Family Services