

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Meeting Date: October 10, 2023

7:00 pm

Meeting Place: MTH

Madison Youth and Family Services Minutes

David Buller, Chairperson, called the meeting of 10/10/2023 to order at 7:03 pm. In attendance were: D. Buller, A. Aron, B. Skudder, G. McGrimley, J. Yorke, J. Rogers, K. Dess, R. McMillian, S. Snyder, R. Xeller, A. Symonds, T. Rizzo, N. Hughes, and MYFS staff:

S. Cochran, S. Clarke & L. Michaud.

Absent were: C. McGrady, J. Hession, K. Rasimass, K. Yahara and S. Murphy

- Attendance
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome—David Buller, Chairperson.
 - D. Buller welcomed everyone.
- Approval of prior minutes from 9/12/2023. Motion to approve made by R. Xeller and 2nd motion made by J. Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment – None
- Correspondence – L. Michaud read thank you correspondence from DCF.

OLD BUSINESS

- Upcoming Events
 - Scott informed the Board re the biannual Search Institute survey to occur at the high school on 10/25, and that the student reps T. Rizzo and N. Hughes will be participating in the introductory video for it. Scott reported on the CYSA Conference that some MYFS staff are attending on 10/27, MYFS is cosponsoring the Mad Dash on 10/28, and will be on the town green for Trunk or Treat (80's Theme) on Tuesday 10/31.

NEW BUSINESS

- Approval of proposed meeting dates 2/13, 3/14, 4/16, 5/14, and 6/4. Motion to approve made by R. Xeller and 2nd motion made by J. Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.
- R. McMillian asked about Board resignations. S. Cochran explained about K. Rasimass approved leave of absence for October, November and December.
- Treasurer's Report – Andrea Aron
 - A. Aron asked for a motion to approve the donations. Motion to approve made by K. Dess and 2nd motion made by J. Rogers. Motion passed unanimously.
 - A. Aron spoke about the Sunshine Fund. She will collect the funds, or they can be brought to L. Michaud at MYFS.
 - R. Xeller questioned MYFS preparedness with heat assistance from Neighbor 2 Neighbor, as he reported that people will be getting very little from the state due to the large amount of people applying for help. S. Cochran reported that MYFS continues to be in consistent contact with N2N to stay on top of the needs.

- J. Rogers asked if we had a liaison at N2N and S. Cochran explained that M. Fahey speaks with L. Heflin.
- J. Yorke asked about the amount of funds received from N2N and S. Cochran agreed to come back to the Board with the amount received last year.
- Student Update
 - T. Rizzo reported that college applications for early action and decision are due January 1, and there is a lot of stress among seniors trying to balance vigorous courses and applying early. He said that teachers are reaching out to students to see how they're doing. Trip explained that students were recently guided through a series of exercises during their Student Advisory groups to work on having civil discussions. G. McGrimley commented on the impact of social media towards the issue.
 - N. Hughes reported on the 20 students coming from Freiburg Germany. Her family is hosting one of the students. DHHS students are "excited" about this program. The hosting students will have an opportunity to go to Germany as well.
- Staff Presentation - Office Management
 - L. Michaud introduced herself and shared some things about herself, both personally, as well as some of her responsibilities at MYFS.
 - S. Clarke introduced herself and gave her presentation on the new, more user-friendly Director's Report, that she designed.
 - General consensus is the Board thinks the new Director's Report is "wonderful". D. Buller said it would be good to show a comparison, if numbers and workloads have increased or decreased. The Board agreed to consider and offer suggestions as this further develops.
- The Director's Report – S. Cochran
 - S. Cochran spoke about the opioid settlement that is being disbursed through the state government. Scott reported there is much variation in the amounts granted to towns. Scott reported MYFS along with MADE and Madison Dept of Public Health have collaborated to utilize some of the funding thus far. Some of those funds have been utilized to resupply Narcan at the police department and ambulance. Scott also reported that the Town has contracted with Beth Capobianco RN, to work on several opioid related projects including connecting the Town with the State tracking program "O.D Maps" in order to better track incidences of overdoses.
 - R. Xeller questioned if we could get a part time social worker with the PD with some of the opioid settlement money and S. Cochran said he was looking into it.
 - J. Rogers asked if some of the money could be spent on awareness prevention and S. Cochran said yes.
 - S. Cochran shared that MYFS is working to develop a better means to collect "outcome data," specifically to look at MYFS Peer Helper and Peer Advocate programs and MYFS Clinical Services.
- Liaison Report – Lieutenant J. Yorke, Madison Police Department

- J. Yorke reported they are purchasing Narcan as it expires, mostly for the ambulances, and that officers are now certified to administer Narcan.
- D. Buller questioned whether MYFS is encountering opioid use among the youth served by MYFS. S. Cochran reported opioid abuse is not as much of a factor in referrals to MYFS, but is likely impacting adults more. J. Yorke stated in his experience that the age range for opioids appears 25-45 years of age.
- J. Yorke shared their challenges with the opioid crisis and their partnership with Central Information. They've had to purchase special gloves to deal with touching items exposed with Fentanyl.
- S. Cochran informed the Board that cases requiring specific substance abuse treatment are most frequently referred to Project Courage.
- Chairperson's Comment – David Buller, Board Chair
 - D. Buller Shared that a DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) had a speaker that did a great job.
- Open Discussion
 - S. Snyder reflected on the atrocities that are occurring in Israel.
 - J. Rogers commented on the local news story of “bags of rocks” being placed in some driveways in town that also contained racist propaganda.
 - R. McMillian appreciates MYFS management following up on the improved Director's Report, said some positive things about the MYFS Boutique and clothing stylist. Ryan voiced interest in more Board discussions related to MYFS staffing and succession planning.
 - B. Skudder and N. Hughes reported that girls field hockey is #1 in the state right now.
 - S. Cochran encouraged people to use their MYFS notebook binders and offered replacements if needed.
- Adjournment — Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Next meeting: November 14, 2023, 7:00 pm at Memorial Town Hall, upper level

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Michaud
 Administrative Assistant
 Madison Youth and Family Services