

Needham Youth & Family Services

Youth Commission Meeting Notes

2/14/18

Materials Distributed (both prior to or/and at the meeting): Agenda; Minutes of 1/10/2018; February Department Report, Facebook Shout-out, Forde Award Press Release, Parenting conference handouts

Accepted Minutes of 1/10/2018

Clinical Focus: What resources are given to families in need, particularly YRN

After last month's meeting when we discussed how we assisted the displaced families due to inhabitable conditions, we were asked to share what resources we use so that board/community members can support those agencies.

- The Needham Community Council is our go to organization for food, clothing and sometimes financial assistance. Adult clothing and children's cloths sizes 8 and up are available there. Through the housing authority we can get clothes from Cradles and Crayons for sizes 8 and under.
- Sandy Robinson, the director of the NCC, will sometimes ask us if we know families not on the food pantry list who need assistance during the holidays as well.
- We were given a contact for a way to get diapers for families.
- New Life Furniture Bank which will provide all furnishings for families in need. You do have to go with a truck but we can help arrange that for families.
- The YMCA is a huge sponsor as well as are other town departments such as Park & Rec.
- Both Needham Community Council and Cradles to Crayons are good Needham organizations to donate to.
- Youth Services hosts on first Wednesday of every month-- anyone is welcome to come.
- Next Meeting March 7th.

Community Focus: Recent Tragic Events

The board and staff discussed the recent tragedies that have affected the Needham Community this week— Most specifically the deaths of Talia Newfield and Adrienne Garrido

- The staff was thanked their support of the community and families during this tragic week
- It was reported that the staff is doing okay. That we have been helping NHS and its students since Sunday. Helping to man the library, as this was the dedicated space for supporting students. We were asked to be a constant as guidance counselors were needed to meet with students. We were able help connect the school with Jon Moon from....who brought therapy dogs to the school.
- In addition to aiding during the school day, the office held extended evening hours to support families as well. Riverside Trauma Center provided an additional staff member to help.
- We also plan to offer office hours during February vacation
- We help connect the YMCA with the schools to offer free memberships to those who would like it
- We assisted in getting a police presence at the original site of the memorial as the scene was potentially dangerous and there was a media presence
 - The memorial was moved to the Own your Peace/Piece sculpture starting Tuesday for safety issues
- There has been an outpouring for support from everyone in town including the PTC presidents bringing food, Needham House of Pizza, Towns of Brookline, Wellesley and Weston
 - Residents who are clinicians have reached out to offer their support
- It was stated that the community reaction was what people needed and that the library was a great resource. It was shared that that the impact of the "emphy chair" in classes was real, that Speech and

Debate (which Talia was a member) was difficult on Tuesday night. NHS administration and teachers were praised for their “superstar” behavior towards students. It was reported that the basketball team cancelled senior night given the loss in the community. It was also reported that teachers were impacted and empathic to students; that not much work in getting done.

- The school administration has included us from the beginning, helping Sunday with students, aiding with information that should be shared by from Aaron Sicotte (NHS principal, to attending the guidance meeting at 7am on Monday morning and faculty meeting at 7:30.
- This has been a challenging week for the staff
 - It was shared how this tragedy has a trickle down, we have seen elementary and middle school clients affected by this too.
 - Talia was a peer tutor and that had an impact
 - It was reported how other students who witnessed the car accident scene have also been affected. (Riverside Trauma staff evaluated these students and a group is being planned).
 - It was asked if we have received support from other Youth Servicing organization in other towns, it was reported not at this point
- In addition, we have supported a family affected by the stabbing/death that also occurred on Saturday night
- There were many layers to the tragic event
 - Miss information Saturday night
 - Many different groups affected, track team (Saturday night/Sunday (track meet)), A Capella concert Saturday night, Speech and Debate tournament coming up...
 - Community is asking questions related to the car accident. It was stated that it is still under police investigation
- Discussed what is happening next
 - It was reported that Student Council plans to distribute wrist bands that have the girls initials on them with the quote “exist to be happy” which appears on one of the girls social media sites
 - Websites/forms are being developed so that students can share stories about the girls
 - Speech and Debate is looking to have an award renamed in Talia’s honor
- Discussed needs during vacation week
 - Katy will be on vacation
 - Staff have been encouraged to take time for themselves

Program Focus: The Safe Surf Program

This workshop is presented to all 6th graders at High Rock. We do revamp the program every year and all staff help with the 20 presentations. The Safe Surf Survey results will be available in March.

Updates given:

- Needham Unplugged starts in March and we are working with Park & Rec and the YMCA to finalize the calendar. PR will start at the end of the month
- Patrick Forde award went well. Deb was thrilled and it was a lovely event
- FinCom meeting went well. Kate recommended our full budget and no questions were asked
- Parenting Conference on February 3rd went well. Presented three workshops on Social Media and Self-esteem (handouts were distributed and slides will be sent in the March packet)
- Annual report is done and submitted
- Community meetings continue to happen.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 6:50

Members Present: David Bookston, Jack Cruickshank, Kevin Keane, Karen Mullen, Susan Patkin, Shayan Raza, Vin Springer, and Julie Stevens

Members Absent:

Division Staff Present: Katy Colthart, Carolyn Tracey, Maria Papantoniou and Ben Aronson

Notes By: Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary

Notes Edited and Submitted by: Katy Colthart, Acting Director