

**CITY OF NORWALK
YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Betsy Karkut, Darlene Young, Mike Moccia, Director of Recreation and Parks, Maria Borges Lopes, Candace Mayer, Jessica Fogg, Anna Duleep

STAFF: Linda Wilock, Youth Services Director; Jason Getner, Juvenile Review Board/Youth Services

OTHERS: Jacqueline Kabak, CT Juvenile Justice Alliance; Anne McIntyre-Lahner, DCF Bureau of Juvenile Services, Philip Chiaia, S.A.V.E.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Wilock called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and explained that the Chair and Co-chair were delayed. She then said that she would chair until the Chair or Co-chair arrived.

APPROVE OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2010

Ms. Wilock said that the January minutes were not available.

BUDGET ISSUES

Ms. Wilock then gave a brief overview of the budget process. She explained that the Early Childhood portion of the Youth Services had been moved to the Mayor's budget and the Youth Services would be focusing more on the older youth.

Local Interagency Service Team (LIST) – Ms. Kabak explained that a group has been meeting to discuss juvenile justice issues. She said that the group realized that the juvenile justice (JJ) issues are local issues and require the involvement of the parents and local resource providers. There have been many agencies involved from early prevention through the full spectrum to the placement of juveniles in a detention center. After working on what should and shouldn't be done, the group changed their model into Result Based Accountability. (RBA). This reduced a large inch thick folder down to a 16 page plan with a small included history.

In the original plan a recommendation of the development of a local development team. Ms. Kabak then reviewed the scope of the LIST project and who would be involved. These people need to come together to discuss JJ issues for each individual community.

One key factor is the acknowledgement that all the communities in Connecticut are different. The questions then become: What are the issues? What are the things that are being done right? Where are the gaps? What are the issues that keep coming up that don't seem to be resolved? On the statewide level, much planning and discussion is going on, but it's not applicable for all the parts of the state.

Since there is no funding, the plan could have been abandoned or the group could ask the various people who are already around the table. The LIST group realized that it would be important to talk to the JJ court areas, all thirteen of them.

Ms. Kabak asked that the Youth Services please talk to the LIST group by sending a report to them once a year. She said the point was to be partners and to help determine whether whatever existing funding is being spent well. Partnership would also allow the group to pursue federal funding. There are a number of groups already meeting and no one needs one more meeting or group. Most of the State, the Youth Service Bureaus have banded together to work on the LIST program priorities. Although Norwalk wasn't part of the original Service Bureau, interest has been expressed in being part of the program.

Ms. McIntyre passed around a two page handout giving the key points of the LIST idea and what the group is looking for in terms of partnerships. Ms. Kabak said that the important thing to remember is that the point is what works best for Norwalk, not Stamford or Bridgeport or Hartford. Ms. Kabak then gave several examples of other towns that have started to work on this program and the various goals the towns are working towards. Also rather than re-inventing the wheel, the LIST group can make suggestions about other communities that have the models already in place.

Ms. Wilock said that through the JRB, the Youth Service Department has become more aware of the issues and various services available. She said that it seemed like a good fit for the steering committee for the JRB and the funding that goes with that program. Ms. Wilock said that she felt that this was why she brought it to the Youth Services Board. Ms. Karkut asked how Ms. Wilock saw this working. Ms. Wilock said that it was too early to know, but she was hoping that the catchments area would be involved. Wilton has already expressed interest. One major concern is outreach and that it would be too labor intensive for the staff. Ms. Wilock said that she and Jason could facilitate the meetings.

Ms. McIntyre said that at the main meeting, there was a high degree of interest and exciting, but that it would basically design itself. The nearest LIST staffer is in Bridgeport and could possibly help with sending emails. While the suburban areas may not have the same level of poverty or gang action, the underlying causes, such as underage drinking, often are the same. The LIST group in Norwalk can be whatever Norwalk needs it to be.

Ms. McIntyre-Lahner said that while she had not worked with Norwalk extensively, the community breakfast that was held in Norwalk last year was one of the best attended in the last five years. There are a number of people in the community that are interested in JJ issues. Ms. Mayer said that she was glad that despite the financial shortages, the LIST group is interested in pursuing the program and working with the communities. This can only benefit the families.

After thanking the Board members for their time, Ms. McIntyre-Lahner and Ms. Kabak left the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

MENTORING GRANT

Ms. Young said that she was the new mentoring grant coordinator for the City and she is working with Jackie Heffernan at the Human Services Council. The first match between a mentor and mentee has already been secured. There will be a video about some mentors and their mentees in the next month or so. The goal is to use the video as a recruiting tool to inform people about the program. The goal is to have sixty new mentor/mentee matches by next January. S.A.V.E. will be supplying 30 mentors. All the mentors are supplied with a restricted membership to the YMCA, and the mentees also are given unrestricted memberships to the Y. There are two programs, one is a school based program, which the Human Services took over from the BOE a year or so ago. Ms. Young's program continues through the year, while the school program ends with the academic year.

Ms. Young said that there were 491 summer employment applications. Next is the interviewing of applicants will start.

KEEP NORWALK BEAUTIFUL

Ms. Duleep said that the Board of Keep Norwalk Beautiful had met recently. Ms. Duleep said that her mother was the president of Friends of Ryan Park and that Lt. Resnick had stated in the Board meeting that he could not guarantee the safety of those in Ryan Park during the clean up. The Ryan Park clean up will be on April 10th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ms. Fogg said that the Keep Norwalk Beautiful group was asked to recruit the youth to clean up the parks and places that the kids hang out. Ms. Karkut suggested that Ms. Fogg contact the Earth Club at Norwalk High School. Mr. Getner and Mr. Chiaia said that they could recommend some young people.

Mr. Moccia and Ms. Karkut left the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Ms. Young said that she would forward the flyer to the Leaders of Tomorrow meeting at NCC to Ms. Wilock. There were several other suggestions from the Board members as to where youth might see the recruitment posters.

Ms. Young thanked Ms. Borges Lopez for her recent help in providing more funding for the summer youth program from the Second Taxing District.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion about the date for the next meeting. Ms. Wilock will contact everyone with a firm date.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wilock adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

