

**CITY OF NORWALK
YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Shirley Sarkin, Acting Chair; Rhonda Collins, Health Department; Candace Mayer, Housing Authority; Jessica Fogg, Spinnaker, Sgt. Ashley A. Gonzalez, Norwalk Police Department Youth Bureau; Maria Borges-Lopez; Council Member Anna Duleep (4:14 p.m.) Darlene Young, Mayor's Office (4:14 p.m.)

STAFF: Linda Wilock, Youth Service Director; Jasen Getner, Youth Service JRB Case Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sarkin called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. She then requested that the members introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2009

The following change was noted:

Page 1, **HEADER AND FOOTER** and throughout document: please change from:

**“CITY OF NORWALK YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION”
to “CITY OF NORWALK YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD.”**

**** MS. MAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2009 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MS. FOGG SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE IN FAVOR (SARKIN, MAYER AND FOGG) AND ONE ABSTENTION (BORGES-LOPEZ).**

DEPARTMENT ISSUES

Ms. Wilock said that her job had been defunded, but that the City had offered Ms. Wilock a part time directorship for the department. Nothing has been decided yet by the administration.

Ms. Young and Council Member Duleep joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Discussion followed on the possible repercussions of this action and some upcoming meetings then followed. Ms. Sarkin said that it would be good for the Board to have an overview of the grant funding that the Department handles. Ms. Wilock said that the main grant that she manages is the four million dollar School Readiness Grant. She then mentioned a number of other grants that the department manages.

Ms. Sarkin then displayed an article about the After School Alliance. Ms. Wilock said that the Mayor had suggested that the After School Alliance write some letters regarding the need for funding.

GANG PREVENTION COORDINATION GRANT & ADVISORY BOARD STRUCTURE

Mr. Getner introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the history of the Gang Prevention Grant. He then distributed a copy of the "Five Strategies of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model" to the Board members. Mr. Getner said that one of the reasons that kids become involved in gangs was because the gangs provide a family, home structure and community that they don't have otherwise. Unfortunately, the gang structure is not a good one. Mr. Getner then reviewed the process that the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) and explained that the grant requires him to see 100 cases a year and that he is required to manage some of the cases for a period of six months. Another requirement is that a Steering Committee be formed.

The discussion then moved to the relationship between the Core committee and the Steering Committee. Mr. Getner said that there has been a great relationship between Youth Services and the Police Department. He also listed the numerous other participants on the Core team. The grant funding amount would be \$189,000 over a period of two years. At a meeting last month, the Mayor has suggested that the Youth Services Advisory Board create a sub-committee as a Steering Committee.

Ms. Mayer, and Ms. Fogg offered to serve on the sub-committee. Ms. Mayer suggested that Mr. Daddona consider designating someone to represent the Board of Education for the Board.

REPORT ON SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Ms. Young said that it would be important to have training for the youth in the employment. This year the State will not be providing the \$25,000 funding. The funding will now be done by the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor said that they will start in May and the program will run through September. Ms. Young said that the Department of Labor is looking to have some of the youth that have been through the court process. Over 400 applications have been received, but the Department of Labor will be splitting the 900 job openings between Norwalk, Stamford, and Bridgeport. Ms.

Young said the details of this process is still unclear. Ms. Young said that the Norwalk program takes the youth through the job training process.

UPDATE ON TEEN WEBSITES

Ms. Wilock said that a consultant has been hired to work with the youth on the City Website. Ms. Young gave a brief overview of some of the possible students that may work on the project.

OTHER

Ms. Collins said that she had to submit her resignation to the Board because she would be retiring at the end of the month. Ms. Collins then thanked Ms. Wilock for all that she had done for Youth Services and the Advisory Board.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Ms. Sarkin said that she felt that there needed to be another meeting to discuss the issues that had been brought up. Several possible options for points to present to the BET were discussed.

Ms. Young left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. DULEEP MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services