



November Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2017 at the
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Chris Bracken, Julia Brilla, Chris Chaplinsky, Heather Clinger, Jack Eisenman, Mark Fazzolari, Tom Gallo, Jim Garstang, Steve Giudice, John Goralski, Kristen Guida, Shane Lockwood, Tom Lombardi, Steve Nyerick, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Joshua Rinas, Christina Simms, Rachel Wache

Staff Attendance: Megan Albanese, Kelly Leppard

Honorary Attendance and Guests: Kiana McDavid, John Myers,

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Kristen Guida, at 4:33 p.m.

President Remarks: Kristen welcomed everyone.

STEPS Moment of the Month: The Moment of the Month was presented by Chris Chaplinsky and he shared the important roll STEPS has played in his life and he hopes his younger sister is able to gain the same experience by becoming involved.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Kristen Guida presented the March 2017 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Chris Palmieri. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: In Treasurer Josie Rogala's absence, Megan reported the current balance of the STEPS donations account is \$21,186.50, after receiving \$238.00 in donations from the Town's 'Dress Down Fridays.' A motion to approve was made Chris Palmieri and seconded by Pastor Joshua Rinas and passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Officer John Mahon and his K-9 counter-part Arno joined the meeting and were able to help Board members understand how K-9s are used in police work and in regards to how drug searches at high school and middle schools.

Staff Report:

Megan Albanese, Administrative Assistant, reported the following:

1. Happy Birthday to Chris Chaplinsky!
2. We have been very busy with tons of updates to our Facebook and website. A big thank you to Jim Garstang and John Myers for consistently liking what we are putting out there. By liking and sharing our posts we are able to reach more people.
3. Heather Clinger, Denise Sicotte, Steve Nyerick, Greg Ferry, Morgan Maccione, Beth Baker, Chris Palmieri, James McAloon, Mark Fazzolari, Shane Lockwood, Pastor Joshua Rinas and Rachel Wache – thank you for submitting your Board hours.
4. As we kick off Good Deeds week, I'd like to turn our Board member spotlight on Mark Pooler. Mark has done an amazing job with leading our Youth Development workgroup and spreading the word about good Deeds week. He has kept our work group organized, on task and focused on producing outcomes.

Kelly Leppard, Youth Prevention Coordinator, reported on the following:

1. Our event with Lt. Chris Bartolotta with the State Police at Southington High School was postponed due to the blizzard. The new date is Tuesday, May 9th at SHS and please save this new date. May is a very tough month with schedules but it would be great to have a great representation of board members.
2. With the help of Mr. Fortunato, STEPS will be featured in the upcoming Southington Magazine. I know he had reached out to some of you, so thank you for getting back to him so quickly. The theme of the article is ten years so much done, so much accomplished, so much more to do! So look for that later this spring.
3. A special thanks to Megan for doing such a great job with keeping our social media accounts up to date and to those of you who continually like our articles. Megan brightens up the room every morning when she comes in and I'm really enjoying being able to work with her. She has really become a great teammate.
4. With only two board meetings remaining for the 2016-2017 term, we need to start putting together our slate for 2017-2018. We already have a few nominations submitted so please continue to send me names when you have them. We can move a few board members around so they don't have to represent a specific sector at this time. Also, I have been contacting a majority of you regarding your terms and commitments for next year. So if I haven't talked to you yet, I will be reaching out to you soon.
5. Another save the date: I have had the privilege to be on the planning committee meeting for the Connecticut Prevention Conference this upcoming May. In addition, we have been asked to present to the entire conference on our youth involvement in regards to creating town ordinances. If anyone would like to go, the conference is

being sponsored by DMHAS so it is free of charge and it is on Monday, May 15th. They are only allowing 280 participants so we will send out the link when the registration opens if and if you are thinking about going, make sure you register right away.

6. Just another plug for CAPP, which is the Connecticut Association of Prevention Professionals: Last week for our monthly membership meeting, we had Robert Spector from the CT Division of the US Attorney's Office present information on the opioid crisis, some of the cases he is working on and what we can do about it. One important thing he mentioned is to let parents know that they are the first line of defense to keeping their kids away from using prescription drugs. If their soccer player gets a concussion and goes to the doctor, they don't have to accept a prescription that is prescribed to them. They need to be advocates for other alternatives. 4 out of 5 cases of addiction start due to a sports related injury. Thanks to Megan, Shane and Kiana for coming. These meetings are open to anyone in our coalition and are fortunately right here in Southington. Next month, the CAPP membership meeting is on Thursday, April 27th at the Southington Library. We are doing a Hidden in Plain Site presentation which includes a backpack and room set up that looks like a teenagers bedroom and has items that could be in any kids room to hide contraband. A hairbrush that opens from the top to easily hide marijuana, an ice tea can that looks and feels exactly like tea is in it but it hollow in the middle, and so on. All of these items were purchased right on Amazon. We are also having this presentation at the event at SHS on May 9th for Southington Parents.

Sector Reports:

Law Enforcement Sector:

Tom Gallo, Board Member, reported the following:

Arrests reported to STEPS Advisory Board March 2016; taken off of Monthly Arrest Log

Drug Arrests:

3/9/17 2003	I	M	21	Plainville	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana	
3/9/17 1116	CM	M	17	Southington	Poss of <1/2 oz of Marijuana, Poss of Drug Paraphernalia	
3/9/17 10:44	-	M	16	Southington	WOULD HAVE BEEN	Poss. Drug Paraphernalia

Positive Youth Development Workgroup update: Board member, Mark Pooler, reported the following:

1. All of our Board members received a tee-shirt to wear during good Deeds week.
2. A lot of different people and Town Boards took the Pledge, now we want to see people take it into action.
3. John Myers is currently working with Kelly and the high school administration to try to make community service a requirement for graduation from Southington High School.

Faith Forum Re-cap: Board member, Pastor Joshua Rinas, reported the following:

1. Faith forum was geared towards local faith communities.
2. Three congregations were represented.
3. Joshua thanked John Myers for a great introduction and his part.
4. We think this forum is a great foothold and a wonderful beginning to help start the interaction and engagement with faith communities.

Marijuana Prevention Workgroup & Prescription Medication Workgroup: Board member, Christina Simms, reported the following:

1. Youth Council was able to help answer questions about how adults can approach the topic of drug use in conversation. We will use these suggestions and incorporate in to conversation cards that are currently being developed.
2. Parent Info fact sheet almost done – will be able to distribute to parents as a resource.
3. Board participated in activity of pairing off and reading conversation cards with a partner. Board members were able to make suggestions about what questions can be added to the conversation card deck.

Underage Drinking Workgroup:

1. There is a revamp of the Prom Promise this year. We previously did a mailing that produced little response and was expensive. This year the pledge will be online.
2. There will be an assembly for both Juniors and Seniors to explain the pledge, as well as encourage their parents to take the pledge.
3. The group will be looking for Board support in going to local community vendors and establishments to work together as a community to keep the kids going to prom safe and alcohol free.

New Business: None

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017, 4:30pm, at the YMCA Administrative Building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Albanese