



## **June Advisory Board Meeting**

Monday, June, 2017 at the

Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

### **MINUTES**

**Advisory Board Attendance:** Heather Clinger, Jack Eisenman, Tom Gallo, Jim Garstang, Steve Giudice, John Goralski, Kristen Guida, Shane Lockwood, Josh Maccione, Morgan Maccione, Lisa Mason, Steve Nyerick, Chris Palmieri, Denise Sicotte, Christina Simms, Rachel Wache,

**Staff Attendance:** Megan Albanese, Kelly Leppard

**Honorary Attendance and Guests:** Brian Goralski

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Kristen Guida, at 4:38 p.m.

**STEPS Moment of the Month:** The Moment of the Month was presented Rachel Wache. Rachel shared how proud she was to attend a luncheon at SHS for the 10 young people from the school that will be entering the military upon graduation.

**President Remarks & plaques:** Kristen welcomed everyone to our last Board meeting of the year. Kristen presented Officer Tom Gallo and Morgan Maccione with plaques and kind words. Carson Stifel was at college freshman orientation and unable to attend the meeting.

#### **Board Action:**

**Approval of Minutes:** Shane Lockwood presented the May 2017 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Christina Simms and seconded by Tom Gallo. The motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** In Treasurer Josie Rogala's absence, Megan Albanese reported the current balance of the STEPS donations account is \$21,924.00 and there has been no activity since last month. A motion to approve was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Chris Palmieri, passing unanimously.

## **Staff Report:**

### **Megan Albanese, Administrative Assistant, reported the following:**

1. Upcoming Events that we need help with:

#### **Music on the Green:**

On Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be setting up a table to specifically promote the Medication Drop Box and locking up prescription medications. Board member Tom Lombardi will be joining us for the event.

#### **TIPS Training:**

We will be hosting another TIPS Training (Training for Intervention Procedures) for Southington employees that serve alcohol on Saturday, June 24, at Buffalo Wild Wings.

#### **Drive In:**

Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5pm. We need 20 volunteers. We will be sending out an electronic sign-up sheet towards the beginning of August.  
Clean up day – Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am

#### **Convocation:**

We will be handing out our calendars (August 28<sup>th</sup>) as staff enter, and we would love some help. It's about 800 people in less than 10 minutes.

#### **Open Houses:**

We would like to have a presence at the Open Houses at each school this year. Since they typically fall on the same dates, we will be asking board members to help once we receive the dates.

2. **TOP 3 Awards:**

Top three awards for 'submitting volunteer hours' went to Rachel Wache, Chris Palmieri and Steve Nyerick.

3. **New Board Members:**

We will be welcoming new board members (that were approved at the May board meeting) Deputy Chief Palmieri and Sgt. Leppard from the Southington Police Department, 2 ninth grade students – Gabe Leblanc and Matthew Luponio, Kelsey Opozda from the New England HIDTA, and one of our founding members, Evelyn Ciaburri. We will be meeting with our new members over summer and we are excited to have them join us this September. (Next meeting is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

4. **Meeting Schedule:**

We will post the new meeting schedule on our website through the intranet so please get those dates in your calendars. We are going to keep the same timeframe – the first Monday of every month (except September and January due to the Holidays where it is the second Monday) at 4:30pm here at the YMCA Admin Building.

5. **Executive Committee:**

We have Mark Pooler and Lisa Mason joining the Executive Committee. We are going to use the same format we have for the past 2 years. Each executive committee member will be assigned 4 board members at random to check in with on a monthly basis. So please continue to send your updates.

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

**1. Overview of 2017-2018:**

Kelly gave an update of what our upcoming year looks like:

- We will be administering the Search Institute's Attitudes and Behavior Survey for the 5<sup>th</sup> time late fall/early winter.
- This will be followed by a board retreat where we extend one of our board meetings. We will get you the date in advance but we do this to be considerate of all your busy schedules and not have you out an additional night.
- We want to do a rather large media campaign with our results since this will be the end of our surveys per grant requirements.
- This will then be followed up by community forums to share how far we have come and the work we still have in front of us.
- We want to continue our workgroups because these are the foundation of our work of our targeted substances.
- We want to create a larger prom promise campaign.
- Continue the work for our Asset Building Classrooms Initiative, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition days.
- Increase our work with our Be In The Know Parent Series
- In addition, Christina Simms will be taking the lead on our sustainability plan since we are down to our final two years of funding.

**2. Focus Group:**

- On Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 10:30am we are looking to host a focus group with 8 parents that will be facilitated by our grant evaluator, Dr. Marc Goldstein.
- The purpose is to learn more about the concerns that Southington parents have, particularly regarding issues of substance use and our goal is to take your thoughts and concerns and weave them into a coherent and meaningful questionnaire which we can then circulate among parents. This will help STEPS get a clearer focus on the issues on the minds of our Southington friends and neighbors.
- If any of you that are parents (of preferably school age children) can participate that day we would really appreciate it.

**3. Professional Development:**

- Christina and Kelly met with Steve Madancy this past month to discuss professional developmental for school staff and support staff throughout the district. We are partnering with LISA Inc (a non-profit here in town) to apply for a grant through the Barnes Trust to pay for these trainings. The BOE would like to see one large professional development in the fall on substance abuse prevention, one large professional development in the spring on mental health, and 8 professional developments throughout the school year for support staff. We are also going to work with Heather Clinger and Youth Services to offer these same trainings to parents in the community for our Be In The Know Series. This summer, we will be working to put that training schedule together.

## **Sector Reports:**

### **Law Enforcement Sector: Tom Gallo, Board Member, reported the following:**

1. Arrests reported to STEPS Advisory Board May 2017; taken off of Monthly Arrest Log: **Drug Arrests:** 1. 5/24/17, 0945, CM, M, 18, Southington, Poss of Marijuana with intent to sell, Poss of Drug Paraphernalia, 2. 5/21/17, 0048, MM, M, 19, Southington, DUI, Improper passing, \$500.00, DUI/ Possession By Minor.
2. Prom: "No incidents at Senior Prom. Every senior who went in was breathalyzed. Four officers were also assigned to a Prom Patrol which was paid for by STEPS. We went to each of the hotels, advised them it was prom night for SHS, talked about not renting rooms to under 18 and advised them of the social host law. Two hotels Marriott and Homewood Suites, both on West St., had circulated a memo their employees that it was prom night and their policies. All the employees had to sign off that they read it. Officers also walked the lot of The Aqua Turf prior to the prom getting out and also as the prom was getting out making sure none of the kids were drinking in the lot. "

### **Youth Sector, Board member Morgan Maccione reported the following:**

1. The STEPS Youth Council has had 18 students submit applications for the STEPS 2017-2018 Youth Council. There are only currently 8 seats available so interviews will be happening over the summer.
2. The Youth Council end of year celebration will be at Lake Compounce this year. A special thanks to Jerry Brick for donating the admission tickets!
3. Morgan, Trever Rogers and Natalie Nyerick presented this past month at the Connecticut Statewide Prevention Conference in Cromwell, Connecticut. The three presented on youth involvement and policy change in coalition work to over 250 attendees!

### **5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition/Asset Building Days, Board member Chris Palmieri reported the following:**

1. 5<sup>th</sup> grade days were held at Camp Sloper and facilitated by Sloper Staff. They were a huge success and gave kids from all the elementary students an opportunity to come together and prepare to merge in the two middle schools.
2. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition day was different this year than it has been in the past and it was a HIT. There was positive feedback from administration, teachers, student and parents. Chris worked with Brian Stranieri to move the day to the high school. Over 2 days, students were given the opportunity to hear a FBI agent and a U.S. Asst. District Attorney speak about the dangers of drugs, in addition to participating in a positive decision-making workshop and tour the school. Chris said this would not be possible without the help of the great Sloper staff that helped facilitate the day and Christina Simms, who helped make the

day possible. We hope that this will set the tone for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade transition day going forward.

**Asset Building Classrooms Annual Training & Convocation, Board member Steve Nyerick reported:**

1. The annual ABC Classroom training took place on May 18 and was a big day for our ABC champions and educators. Attendees were really able to focus on their specific school and how they can be the best asset building leaders in their schools.
2. In addition to handing out calendars at convocation this year, we will be taking a more serious tone in helping our educators make substance abuse prevention a priority.

**New Business:** None

**Next Board meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2017, 4:30pm, at the YMCA Administrative Building.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Albanese