



February Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, February 1, 2016 at the
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Chris Bracken, Julia Brilla, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, Mark Fazzolari, E. Richard Fortunato, Jim Garstang, Steve Giudice, Kristen Guida, Sarah Lamb, Shane Lockwood, Tom Lombardi, Morgan Maccione, James McAloon, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Josie Rogala, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Carson Stifel, Rachel Wache.

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Kelly Leppard, Joe Foster.

Honorary Attendance: John Myers.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Jim Garstang, at 4:30 p.m. Jim welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

STEPS Moment of the Month:

Mark Fazzolari presented the Moment of the Month. Mark said that he wanted to talk about the homeless people in town that Community Services is helping. He said that the Governor has a task force to end the chronic homeless in Connecticut and John Adams, staff member from Community Services, goes out looking for anyone in town that is homeless and gives sleeping bags, coats, hats and gloves etc.

Mark said that Community Services has also been working with the clergy sector to put homeless up in hotels. He said that the good news is that with the new task force, there is a test the homeless can take to qualify for new programs. With one of the programs, three of the local people will have vouchers by the end of this week and then they have 60 days to find an apartment.

President Remarks:

Jim reported that survey Q&A session was held this past month. Only one parent attended but over ten board members/community members (including Steve Nyerick, Brian Goralski & Tim Connellan) came out to support us - so thank you to everyone that was able to attend. He said it was also a good opportunity to review details as to why we administer the survey if any questions come up. He said that the executive committee will be coordinating talking points for board members and if anyone gets any questions, you can forward them to Kelly, Sue, Jim or John.

Jim said that the survey was successfully administered last Tuesday with only 2 students 'opt-ing out'. He said that the surveys have been mailed to the Search Institute and the addendum surveys were picked up by our evaluator, Marc Goldstein. He said that we will have our survey results within 4 weeks.

Jim said that we are in the process of planning details and setting a date for the board retreat. He said that the date will depend on when we get the results back, but we are hoping for mid-March so please keep a look out in your email for information on this. He said that the overall goal of the retreat this year will be to look through survey data and as a board, decide what important information (good and bad) to share with the community.

Jim said that we are also in the process of confirming details for this year's version of the community forum to share out the survey results with the community. He said that the executive committee met last week and decided that they are going to break the forum up into 6 smaller forums and use a round table format to get participants actively involved.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Secretary, Chris Palmieri, presented the January 2016 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Shane Lockwood and seconded by Tom Lombardi. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Advisory Board Treasurer, Shane Lockwood, reported that this month the donations account had two appropriations - \$300 was donated from the Southington Drive-In for the Youth Committee's help at the Halloween Festival. He said that also an appropriation of \$310 was made from t-shirts sales and included a private donation of \$260 by John Myers' family in memory of the Sandy Hook 26. He said that this brings the total account balance to \$18,649.92. Chris Palmieri motioned to approve the minutes and Sue Saucier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report:

Sue Saucier, Program Director, reported on the following:

Sue reported that she and Kelly fielded all the calls and e-mails regarding the survey and asked if anyone saw the TV coverage on channel 30 and channel 3. Sue said that she thought that Channel 30 did a pretty good job. She said that four people came into the office so they could sit down and take a look at the survey. She said that they could take notes but just couldn't remove the survey from the office. She said that the people who came in were wonderful, they were just upset that they didn't understand the subject matter of the survey and they said that had they known, they would have attended the meeting. Sue said that STEPS did what they asked this year after feedback from two years ago. Sue shared an email from one of the parents that did come in and talk to her. Sue said that it made it all worthwhile and it was nice to hear back from them. Sue said that we have to keep in mind that around 1,300 kids took the survey and we only got negative feedback from about 10 parents.

Mr. Fortunato asked if we could turn positive comments into a piece that could be released to the public and offered his help if needed.

Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported on the following:

Meredith reported that the ID guidebooks have been ordered and will ship to us from Northern California sometime this week. She said that each packet will contain talking points, a 2016 ID Checking Guidebook, a We ID sticker and a flier with information about the upcoming TIPS trainings that are

scheduled. She said that TIPS trainings will be held on March 21st and April 4th and are free for attendees.

Meredith said that she has made a list of all Liquor Permittees in town and broke it out into groups of 3 or 4 on a signup genius. She said that she grouped them by location to keep it as easy as possible. She said that on the signup that there are 'adult' groups and 'student' groups. She said that student groups consist of grocery stores and family restaurants; adult groups are liquor stores, restaurants and bars - please allow students to sign up for the student groups first. She said that she plans to have packets ready for the next board meeting on March 7th.

Meredith also reported that on February 28th, the Healthy family Fun Fest will be held again at the Aqua Turf. She said that STEPS will have a table promoting the Lock It or Drop It Campaign. She said that board members will also receive a signup genius link for this and asked that board members sign up for a block of time if you are available.

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

Kelly thanked everyone that signed up to attend the Marijuana Legislative Rally. She said that talking points and bus information will be sent out later in the week.

Kelly said that next Wednesday is the next Asset Building Champion Meeting at the Municipal Center from 7:30 – 9:00am with a representative from each of school's ABC Teams. She said that these meetings only happen twice a year so if any board member would like to attend and hear all of the great things going on with this initiative, they are more than welcome to attend.

Kelly reported that Steve Nyerick, who is the chair of the Asset Building Classrooms initiative, is receiving the 'Person of the Year' award at the Southington Community YMCA's annual dinner this Wednesday night. She said that there are board members attending so if anyone is interested in also attending, please let her know.

Kelly then started the Kahoot game that was put together with information from John Dobbins, Shane Lockwood and the Youth Council on e-cigarettes and vaping.

Sector Reports:

Medical Committee:

Chris Bracken, Committee Member, reported the following:

Chris reported that a couple of months ago, her sister told her about a program called "Jane Doe No More." She said that it is a class to help women protect themselves from assault. She said that after hearing about it, she met with Kelly and Sue and organized an event right here in Southington. She said that the date is March 12th from 9am to 1pm at Southington High School. She is working on sponsorships and getting all the details together.

Chris also reported that her and her son visited 13 pharmacies in town with information on the Lock It or Drop It campaign. Their next step is to get them smaller fliers to attach to medication bags.

Military Committee:

Rachel Wache, Committee Member, reported the following:

Rachel reported that the wall calendar project for the Veterans and people in health care facilities in Southington was a great success and we probably collected over 2000 calendars that have all been distributed. She said that it makes so many people happy and it's a great project. Rachel said that collection boxes were put out at YMCA, library, Calendar House, the schools and that is what made it such a success. Rachel said that she'd also like to thank Charlene Luponio and the Youth Committee members that helped out delivering calendars in town. Rachel said that she will probably try to organize this every year.

Lock It or Drop It Campaign:

Beth Baker, Committee Member, reported the following:

Beth reported that last month, she spoke about how she has been working with her sister to visit local doctor offices in town to talk about the Lock It or Drop It campaign. She said they went to one doctor this past month and received great feedback. The doctor said that he talks to his patients all the time about proper medication disposal and that he would absolutely put fliers up in exam rooms and take pamphlets to hand out if we provided them. Beth said that this month she and her sister will work on visiting some more offices.

Prom Campaign:

Joe Foster, Intern, reported the following:

Joe reported that he, Kelly and Meredith just met with a printing company to work out the details for the parent mailing card that will go home this year. He said this is the card that informs the parents about the CT Social Host Law and asks if they'd like to put up a lawn sign. He said that he is also accepting donation for student incentives. He said that last year, John Myers donated a YMCA membership and John said they'd be happy to do it again this year.

Youth Council:

Trever Rogers, Committee Member, reported the following:

Trever reported that this month, the Youth Council focused on marijuana and the perception amongst youth. He said that at their meeting, they analyzed the different marijuana laws in the USA and the Youth Council thinks that legislators are sending mixed messages. He said that the Youth Council is planning a project to try and address this. They are still in the planning stages and will report more once it has been decided

Sarah Lamb reported that Relay for Life season is here. She said that the team page is up and Sarah will send the link to Meredith who will then distribute to the board members.

Good Deeds Day Committee:

Josie Rogala, Committee Member, reported the following:

Josie reported that her team has been working on a project with Good Deeds Day, which is a global movement that is based on the simple idea that everyone person can do something good whether it is big or small to change the world. She said that there are more than 930,000 participants in over 61 countries

and that this year is 10th anniversary. She said that STEPS is registered with the organizer's website to participate this year.

Mark Pooler said that in Southington, STEPS isn't just going to do Good Deeds Day, but actually Good Deeds Week... April 4th through April 10th. He said that they will have pledge sheets at the next meeting so board members can think about what they'd like to do as their good deed before the next meeting on March 7th. He said that it can be something as simple as holding a door or raking leaves for a neighbor in need, buying coffee for person behind you.

Kelly said that when you sign your pledge, you will also receive a good deeds t-shirt and button. She said that also take a picture of your good deed if you can and send it to her so they can make a collage of them.

John Myers asked if we can tie it into assets and Josie said that April is Positive Peer Influence month, so that works together with it well.

New Business:

Sue Saucier said that she completed and submitted the continuation grant. She said that she can't believe it's already year 8.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Southington YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick