



May Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, May 2, 2016 at the
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Chris Bracken, Julia Brilla, Chad Butler, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, Jack Eisenmann, E. Richard Fortunato, Tom Gallo, Steve Giudice, Kristen Guida, Sarah Lamb, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Carson Stifel.

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Kelly Leppard.

Honorary Attendance: none.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board Vice President, Kristen Guida, at 4:34 p.m.

STEPS Moment of the Month: Julia Brilla presented the Moment of the Month. She thanked everyone for letting her share her opinions at the retreat. Julia said that at the Youth Council meeting this past month, the members designed posters to educate about e-cigarettes and she is very impressed and excited about the poster they created and the campaign that is around it. She said that they will be putting posters around the school that will be updated daily with the ingredients that are in e-cigarettes but not saying what that is where they are from. She said that it will be revealed on Friday that they are all in an e-cigarette.

Vice President Remarks:

1. Kristen said that the next 'Be in the Know' forum is coming up at the end of the month and she asked that board members please bring a friend or three.
2. She said that board nominations are needed by May 20th for next year. Chris Palmieri asked who was leaving the board so they would know what spots needed to be filled. Kelly listed the retiring members.
3. Kristen also said that we need recommendations for people who are looking to move up to the executive board and to please email Kelly or Jim if you are interested.
4. Kristen announced that the summer series for the Drive-In has been released and STEPS will do August 27th. She said to be sure to check your email for a signup genius to help make it a successful night.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Secretary, Chris Palmieri, presented the April 2016 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Clinger and seconded by Tom Gallo. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported that there is currently a balance of \$18,691.92 in the STEPS Donation account. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Chris Palmieri and seconded by Heather Clinger. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report:

Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported on the following:

1. Meredith said she and Kelly will be contacting everyone to go over board membership terms and discuss board membership before the new slate is announced to be voted on in June. She said that at that time, any questions members may have or ideas you'd like to sit down and hash out, Kelly and herself are available to set up meetings in person or over the phone.

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

1. Kelly said that she is looking for board members to participate in a focus group with Fusion Marketing on Tuesday, May 10th from 2:30-4:30pm at Youth Services. She said that they are going to be taking four of the themes that came out of the board retreat and expanding on them with the marketing company. She said that the themes are:
 - a. Making hard conversations easier
 - b. Saying I love you is only the start
 - c. Getting students to like themselves more on a whole
 - d. Skills to say no, starts way before kids are in a risk-taking situation – how asset building throughout a kid's life impacts the decisions they make.
2. Kelly reported on the Prom Promise campaign for our intern, Joe Foster. Kelly said that 238 SHS juniors made the Prom Promise pledge as well as 206 seniors and the prizes have been given out. She said a special thanks to Eclipse Hair Salon, Silk Nails, Jillian and Company, the Southington Community YMCA, Modern Formals, Art Rich, Rose to the Occasion and Bangle for their donations of gifts for the students that made the pledge. She said that postcards have been mailed to all parents of juniors and seniors and 52 were returned by the junior parents and senior parents pledge cards aren't due back until May 4th. She said that she just had our junior parent winner announced for winning the \$100 Stop & Shop gift card to host a safe prom after party. She said that junior lawn signs were delivered around town this past Thursday and an ad with parents names will be in the paper next Thursday and Friday. She said that senior prom lawn signs will be going out on May 12th with the ad with parents names that Thursday and Friday. She thanked our intern Joe for doing a great job and to Meredith for driving us around town for the lawn signs and for making the beautiful newspaper ads.
3. Kelly said that STEPS is sponsoring James McAloon and Greg Ferry, the SHS Athletic Director, to attend 'Life of an Athlete' in Lake Placid, NY at the end of June which is a conference/training

on how to incorporate asset building into athletics. She said that we are looking forward to hearing about their time at the conference and how we can bring asset building to Southington athletics.

4. Kelly said that last month, 16 people from various restaurants attended our TIPS training and there is also another training going on tonight.
5. Kelly said that 5th and 8th grade transition days are just around the corner so the planning teams are putting the final touches on those plans. She said that if anyone wants to attend and come check them out, they are more than welcome.
6. Kelly said that the Asset Building Classrooms annual training is also right around the corner. She said that this is another great day if anyone is available to participate it is on May 19th from 8 a.m. -11 a.m. or the second session is from 12 p.m. -3 p.m. at DePaolo Middle School.
7. Kelly said that Meredith, Heather Clinger and Kelly represented STEPS at SEF's annual spelling bee last week. She said that they didn't win, but they did make it through 9 rounds.
8. Kelly said that the June meeting is going to be held at our usual meeting place, the YMCA Admin building instead of Camp Sloper as we have done in the past.

Sector Reports:

Youth Committee:

Trever Rogers, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Trever said that as Julia reported earlier, the Youth Council has been working on their new e-cigarette poster at the recent Youth Council meeting because e-cigarettes are a big problem in the school. The students are excited about their upcoming campaign.
2. Trever said that they went over the data from the survey in the last meeting like they did at the board retreat and everyone did the same sheets as we did at the board retreat. He said that at the next meeting, the kids are going to plan how they will help with the forum in the fall.
3. Trever said that he heard that parents hosting parties after the prom this year are making kids sign behavior contracts and he thinks that is great.
4. Trever said that the Relay for Life's team goal was to raise \$1500 and they made it; \$600 was raised at the car wash, \$125 at bake sale, \$218 at Arby's and \$225 at Fancy Bagel. He thanked everyone who signed up for the team and if anyone would still like to, Meredith sent out a link to join. Kelly asked if they needed anyone from Youth Committee to volunteer and Trever said yes.

Good Deeds Committee:

Mark Pooler, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Mark said that Good Deeds week was last month and from the team's perspective, it was great. He shared a few examples of good deeds from the week: the YMCA Learning Center kids

brought cookies to fire department, the senior management team went to rake leaves, and Team Shane brought breakfast to the National Guard.

2. Beth Baker shared her good deed: Beth said she was walking around her neighborhood with her husband and saw a kid flying a kite and got it stuck in a tree. She said that the next day, she wrote a note and left him a new kite – anonymously. Kelly said that the day after, she got an awesome email from the mother of the child who received the kite and. Mark said that is the essence of good deeds week and stories like that is what it's really about.

Be in the Know Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Heather said that the most recent Be In the Know forum was on April 19th with Dr. Kaminer at the Southington Library. She said that there were 13 people in attendance. She said that evaluations were pretty good and attendees walked away with facts of what's in today's marijuana.
2. Heather said that the next Be in the Know forum will be on the Connecticut Social Host Law and asked board members to please invited anyone who will benefit from the presentation. She said that Dr. Skarvinko, Lt. Steve Elliott, Officer Chad Butler and Attorney Paul Bedard will be the presenters. Heather handed out the flyer for the event. She said that the date was chosen because it is right around college students coming home, Memorial Day weekend and SHS graduation.

Law Enforcement Committee:

Officer Tom Gallo, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Tom reported that the Southington Police Department has been working on the local heroin problem. He said that one thing that is happening is that Officer Mark DiBattista, when possible, has been interviewing person who overdosed and their family. Tom read some of the questions from the standard survey that Mark is using. He said that along with this, they are also giving the Wheeler Clinic's resource guide to the person who overdosed. He said that it includes useful phone numbers and information that they may need as they hopefully work towards recovery. He said that it is a way to figure out how to allocate resources and help to alleviate the heroin problem and see where it is coming from.

Kelly said that she spoke to Mark and he told her that a lot of people start with prescription drugs after a car accident or sports injuries and it progresses from there to a heroin addiction. Kristen Guida said that there is a new law that says that prescribers can prescribe only one week's worth of pain medication, and then the patient will have to follow up with a surgeon or care provider. She said that they are also encouraged to give out the least addictive medication. She said that they have to check the PMP before they can prescribe so they will know the prescription history even if it's not their patient.

Sue Saucier said that the face of the addict is changing too – it's more and more becoming a person who had been hurt and prescribed to medication for the injury. She said that this is good information for parent groups and to get the word out that you need to keep an eye on medicines when your kids have sports injuries and thing and the new legislation is really great for this.

Steve Giudice said there was a great documentary that he saw on HBO called Heroin Cape Cod, USA and it follows kids that are addicted and asked them how they got into heroin. He said it is a difficult thing to watch but is very good.

New Business:

1. Nancy Chiero said that during 'Advisory' at the high school today, they talked about running for class office and she said that at the bottom of a handout, there was information about building assets. She said that it was great to see that advisors who aren't directly involved with STEPS are using asset language.
2. Sue Saucier said that at the upcoming ABC training, there will be two other coalitions attending and that is all due to the work that Kelly, Steve Nyerick, Jackie St. John, Jeff Duquette and Nancy Chiero have built up. She said that other coalitions have heard great things about what we are doing in Southington and they want to duplicate that and it's such a great thing.
3. Mark Pooler said that at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner recently, Chris Palmieri was given the Community Spirit Award and Nancy Chiero awarded the Employee of the Year Award. Everyone gave them a round of applause.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. at the YMCA Administration Building.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick