



September Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2015 at the
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Chris Bracken, Julia Brilla, Nancy Chiero, Heather Clinger, Jack Eisenmann, Mark Fazzolari, E. Richard Fortunato, Tom Gallo, Jim Garstang, Justine Griffin, Kristen Guida, Sarah Lamb, Shane Lockwood, Tom Lombardi, Morgan Maccione, James McAloon, Chris Palmieri, Mark Pooler, Joshua Rinas, Josie Rogala, Trever Rogers, Sue Saucier, Denise Sicotte, Carson Stifel.

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Kelly Leppard.

Honorary Attendance: John Myers.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President, Sue Saucier, at 4:30 p.m. Sue welcomed everyone to the Advisory Board and said that it is exciting to see how much STEPS and the board have grown over the past eight years. She said that we are a movement in the community. She said that it is also great to have additional students on the board to increase the youth input. Sue said that we are in the 7th year of funding in our Drug Free Communities grant and that she is looking forward to another awesome year.

Sue (literally) passed the torch to the new Board President, Jim Garstang.

President Remarks:

Jim welcomed everyone and thanked John Myers and the Southington Community YMCA for letting us use the meeting space.

Jim thanked everyone for completing the member survey that was emailed out and used the interesting fact responses for an icebreaker.

Jim then said that a few changes have been made to the Executive Committee system. Each Executive Committee member has been assigned to four board members and one honorary member to increase the communication and help with technical support. The Executive Committee member will check in with their team for a report once a month, which will then be shared with the rest of the committee and used to formulate the agendas for board meetings going forward. Jim then announced the teams.

Team Jim	Team Josie	Team Kristen	Team Shane	Team Sue	Team Chris
Tom Lombardi	Morgan Maccione	Justine Griffin	Tom Gallo	Joshua Rinas	Chad Butler
Julia Brilla	Denise Sicotte	Dick Fortunato	Mark Fazzolari	John Dobbins	Sarah Lamb
Steve Giudice	Mark Pooler	Beth Baker	Carson Stifel	Nancy Chiero	Heather Clinger
James McAloon	Kaye Davis	Jack Eisenmann	Rachel Wache	Trever Rogers	Chris Bracken
<i>Gary Brumback</i>	<i>Mike Riccio</i>	<i>Brian Goralski</i>	<i>Buddy Clark</i>	<i>Tim Connellan</i>	<i>Jack Daly</i>

STEPS Moment of the Month:

Jim then presented the September Moment of the Month. Jim said that having our board together, from the experience in the senior community to the youth that are coming up, is truly phenomenal and is a moment in itself.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Advisory Board Secretary, Chris Palmieri, presented the new by-laws. A motion was made to approve the by-laws changes by Trever Rogers and seconded by Shane Lockwood. The motion passed unanimously. Chris then presented the June 2015 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Lombardi and seconded by Shane Lockwood. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Advisory Board Treasurer, Shane Lockwood, reported that there is currently a balance of \$15,439.92 in the STEPS Donation account. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Chris Palmieri and seconded by Sue Saucier. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report:

Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, reported the following:

1. Meredith asked board members to please log into the website to submit board reports and their volunteer hours on an ongoing basis. She passed out login instructions for those who may need assistance with the process.

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

Youth Committee

1. Kelly reported we have two new parent volunteers that are taking over the STEPS Youth Committee, Charlene Luponio and Kim Dandelski. She said that they are very excited to work with the group and will be having their first meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:15pm at the YMCA. Kelly said that if anyone is interested in helping with this group, they would love to have you participate. She said that the group's main goal is to find volunteer opportunities and projects that kids can work on and their first project is going to be the next STEPS tree that will

be planted at the municipal center. Shane Lockwood offered to help coordinate the digging of the hole. The committee also has a new email address which is STEPS YouthCommittee@gmail.com.

2. Kelly stated that this is another survey year for us ó which will be the 4th time that the Search Institute survey will be administered to all 7, 9, and 11 grade students in Southington. She said that the survey measures students' developmental asset levels and their risk taking behaviors. She said that the plan is to administer the survey in early December, followed by some type of community forum late winter/early spring. More details will be announced as they become available.
3. Kelly gave all board members an Asset of the Month calendar and asked everyone to put it somewhere it will get noticed. The calendars were created by Meredith and were used as our giveaway at this year's back to school convocation by the Board of Education. .
4. Kelly mentioned that we are in the Apple Harvest Parade again this year with Valentine the Clown and Zing Zumba Fitness. Kelly said that there is a signup genius that will be emailed out and if you don't Zumba, you could walk or hold a sign to participate.

Sector Reports:

Youth Council:

Trever Rogers, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Trever reported that over the summer, board members received an email regarding the Youth Mental Health First Aid training from Heather Clinger and Trever attended it and said it was really cool. He said they talked about addiction and mental illness and how to recognize that from regular teenage behavior. He thought it was really helpful and interesting and recommends it to anyone who wants to take it.
2. Trever said that there is now a QR code for Southington Serves, so if you scan the code with a QR reader on your smartphone, it will bring you right to Southington Serves webpage. The STEPS Youth Council has made invitations with the code on that will be handed out at the Apple Harvest Parade. Trever then explained the origins of Southington Serves to the new board members.
3. Trever said that the Youth Council will be hanging up the No-Smoking signs at the Apple Harvest festival again this year on Friday, October 2, 2015.
4. Trever said that another thing students from Youth Council did this summer was that they worked with Mr. Stranieri [the principal at SHS] about the dress code at the high school. Trever said that some members of Youth Council thought the video was a bit sexist and skewed too much towards girls. He said that they actually ended up changing the whole dress code and made it more understandable for students.
5. Trever said that he with Sarah Lamb and Carson Stifel to help the SOCCA with the kickoff video for the new arts center that is opening at the Gura Building.

6. Trever also stated that there has already been two Youth Council meetings and at last week's meeting, they brainstormed and decided that they wanted their next projects to be on the perception of marijuana, e-cigarettes, decision making and suicide prevention.

Parent Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Heather reported that although her grant through Wheeler Clinic has ended, she will continue to work with STEPS through the DFC grant and is excited about the upcoming projects she is already working on.
2. Heather said that the first big event of the fall is a community forum about the Social Host Law and helping parents understand alcohol possession laws. She said the forum is called "Be in the Know" and will be held on Wednesday, October 14th in the Municipal Center meeting room from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Presenters include Attorney Tony Sheffy, pediatrician Dr. George Skarvino and Officers Steve Elliot and Chad Butler from the Southington Police Department. She said that flyers were distributed at the middle school open houses and they will be handed out at the SHS open house this upcoming week. Heather thanked the board members who volunteered Tom Lombardi said that he will make an announcement at the Town Council meeting Monday night and he would also like to leave flyers in the schools and in town offices. The board decided that was a great idea.

New Business:

1. Jack Eisenmann spoke about an upcoming fundraiser in memory of Olivia Fusco at the Elks Club this Friday night. He said that they are trying to raise money for a scholarship and a park bench on the bike path in Olivia's name.
2. Dick Fortunato asked to interview the students on the board and thinks is great news for the town to know that we have six students who sit on the Advisory Board.
3. Sue reported that we have a new Project Officer for our DFC grant and we are waiting to hear back about when she will come to Southington for a possible site visit.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the Southington YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick