



September Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2016 at the
The Southington Community YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room

MINUTES

Advisory Board Attendance: Beth Baker, Julia Brilla, Chris Chaplinsky, Heather Clinger, Greg Ferry, Ofc. Tom Gallo, John Goralski, Kristen Guida, Morgan Maccione, James McAloon, Steve Nyerick, Chris Palmieri, Joshua Rinas, Josie Rogala, Denise Sicotte, Carson Stifel, Rachel Wache, Gianna Wadowski.

Staff Attendance: Meredith Fenwick, Kelly Leppard.

Honorary Attendance: John Myers.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Kelly Leppard in lieu of Advisory Board President, Jim Garstang, at 4:35 p.m.

The President Torch was passed to the new Board President, Kristen Guida.

President Remarks: Kristen called the meeting to order and said she got involved with STEPS four years ago when working on her doctorate for nursing and Chief Daly and Officer Gallo both pointed her towards Kelly and STEPS for research. She said that she is very excited to be a part of STEPS. Kristen said that in her professional life she is a nurse practitioner at Hartford Hospital where she works with a very sick patient population and sees people who come in as a result of drug overdoses. Kristen then asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves and talk about why or how they got involved in STEPS.

Kristen then announced that Kelly Leppard recently passed her exam to make her a Certified Prevention Specialist. She said that we are all very proud of Kelly and think this is a wonderful accomplishment and she is such an asset to the STEPS organization.

Board Action:

Approval of Minutes: Meredith Fenwick, Administrative Assistant, presented the June 2016 Advisory Board minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chris Palmieri and seconded by Heather Clinger. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Advisory Board Treasurer, Josie Rogala, reported that in June, \$980.00 went out of the donations account to pay for t-shirt inventory. In July, \$166 was appropriated from casual Fridays and in August \$90 was appropriated for the sale of conversation cards. She said that this brings the total

balance of the account to \$18,045.92. 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 the following:

1. Meredith presented the board with an informational Kahoot Game for members to participate.
2. Meredith thanked the dedicated Drive-In volunteers who helped us this summer for our sold out showing of Zootopia. She said that it was a very successful night and she thought it went as smoothly as possible. The Drive-In Committee will present us a check at a meeting this fall.
3. Meredith stated that all new member meetings have been completed and if anyone needs assistance logging into their account to please let her know.
4. Meredith asked that board members to sign up for a 'Moment of the Month' for this upcoming year. She said that she will send out a reminder when it is your month.
5. Meredith said that we have a brand new calendar for the school year and everyone should have received one. She said that if you need additional calendars to please let us know as soon as possible.
6. Meredith said the Apple Harvest Parade will be held on Sunday, October 2nd and once again STEPS will be marching in the parade. She said that she has a signup genius that she will pass around for members to sign up if you would like to join us. An email will also be sent out.
7. Meredith said that she will be joining Kim Dandelski in running the STEPS Youth Committee this year. She said that right now they are working on boosting membership and preparing for their first meeting on Sept. 20th which will be held at the YMCA. She said that they are planning on marching in the parade as well as some other fun activities throughout the community for the rest of the year.

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

1. Kelly reported that there is a new Youth Services Director, Christina Simms from the YMCA and she starts October 3rd. She said Christina will be a STEPS Advisory Board Member and Project Director of our DFC Grant.
2. Kelly said that we have a new intern this year, Trever Rogers, who is a past STEPS Advisory Board Member and is currently a freshman at the West Hartford UCONN branch. She said Trever is going to specifically work on promoting our Southington Serves volunteer website and a new town ordinance idea.
3. Kelly said our grant evaluator, Marc Goldstein, is working on a member survey for all everyone. She said that she will be sending it out within the next week via email, so please take a few

minutes to complete it as soon as possible. She said that we appreciate you taking the time for this survey.

4. Kelly said that over the summer, several board members helped us create a new video for our website. She said that we were hoping to have it completed by today, but the most recent version is rather long, so the producer is currently working on shortening it. She said that we will email the video out as soon as we have it.
5. She said that we are renewing our contract with AMP Radio, which is advertising at the gas pumps. She said we are looking for one or two volunteer board members that would be willing to visit the studio in Plainville once a month and record new ads. She said we will help create the ads but it is always good to have new, energetic voices being heard at the gas pumps.
6. Kelly said that this Wednesday morning, we will have a table at the Calendar House's Senior health fair to advertise the medication drop box. She said that if anyone would like to volunteer, Meredith and she would love your company!
7. She said this Thursday night is the open house at Southington High School. She said STEPS will have a table with calendars and a save the date for an upcoming survey forum (which Heather will tell you more about) from 6-7:45pm. She said if anyone would like to volunteer, Beth Baker and she would love your company!
8. She said the STEPS Youth Council has their first meeting tomorrow night. She said that interviews were held over the summer and 4 new students will be joining as 4 students just graduated. She said that their first project is the 'please do not smoke signs at the apple harvest festival' – but this year they will also include e-cigarettes and vaping. She said they are also planning to do an environmental scan of restaurants in town to see if vaping and the use of e-cigarettes are an issue in their establishments.
9. She said on the back of everyone's agenda is listed the new teams for this year. She said each board member is on a team with an executive committee member. She said that honorary members are on her team. She said that each month, the executive committee members will reach out to their team to check in on project status, new ideas or concerns. She said executive committee members will then give updates at our monthly meetings. She said that your team does not have to do a specific team project but can if you want to – for example 'good deeds day' which was great but the goal is to use this more as a check in system.

Be in the Know Committee:

Heather Clinger, Committee Member, reported the following:

1. Heather Clinger said that last year, we started an educational series on a variety of different topics such as the CT Social Host Law, Parents and Technology and Marijuana. She said that we are continuing the series this year as a way to get the survey data out to the public. She said that over the summer, a group of board members met and details were worked out for the Be in the Know: Survey Says forum. She said the first event is Tuesday October 18th and will be a light breakfast at The Back Nine Tavern. She said that the target audience is the Town Government, Law Enforcement, Business, Board of Education and Health sectors. She said that a small planning committee was put together and six more board members are needed to help at the event. She said that if you do volunteer, we will also need you on Sept. 28th at 3pm for a thorough planning meeting. Heather sent around a sign-up sheet. Heather said that the second date will be for

students on November 9th, and there will be pizza at Southington YMCA, that will be held in the evening. She said that a third forum will be for Parents, Religious and Youth Servicing sectors on November 15th. She said that date will be a light lunch held at the Aqua Turf.

Education/Athletics Sector:

Greg Ferry and James McAloon, sector members, reported the following:

1. Greg said that they started off the fall season with a record turnout of athletes participating in sports at the high school this year. He said over 700 students and parents attended the coach's night for the students to educate parents and students on the expectations of the athletes. He said that there is a heavy anti-drug message and healthy life message. He said that they will do the programs three times a year, if anyone would like to come, he'd love to have them.
2. Greg said that this summer, he and James McAloon went to a training retreat in Lake Placid, NY at the training center which was really amazing to see. He said it was called Life of an Athlete and it sounded like a good program but he and James felt like Southington is doing a lot of the things they talked about already. He said he was glad they went though and that it was nice to meet others from around the country in the same position and get different perspectives.
3. James said that he took a lot away as a coach and a teacher from the Life of an Athlete program but he felt like last year there were a lot of changes in athlete handbook. He said after attending the Life of an Athlete program, he started to look at ways to rehabilitate the athlete rather than just kicking them out. He said that he knows that for some kids, sports are the best thing for them to keep them out of trouble. He said that he had a student this past spring with a problem, they went through community service but will give him a chance to earn his way back onto the team and maybe this action will prevent the incident or something similar from happening again.
4. James said that right now at school, the physical education and health teachers are going through curriculum for future classes. He said that it's been stressed to them by the Board of Education to pay attention to the rise in opiate abuse and heroin so the teachers are trying to really make an effort to incorporate that in the curriculum since it is an issue. He said that any information STEPS Advisory Board Members feel would be valuable, he would be happy to pass along. He said that it is a two year process and they are going into second year. Kelly asked if there was a timeline, Greg said he would get her more information.

Asset Building Classrooms Committee:

Steve Nyerick, committee member, reported the following:

1. Steve Nyerick said as some may know, he and his team lead a training that goes on for elementary and secondary students in the spring for the following year. He said that it is a great training and the students begin to connect with each other to bring the concepts back to their schools. He said that there are team building activities but the emphasis is connecting the kids at the training so they can pass it on to others at their respective schools.
2. Steve reported that at convocation, STEPS presented part of their Asset Building Classrooms training for the STEPS' presentation. He said it was a big success and plans are in the works for the presentation next year.

3. Steve said that at DePaolo Middle School, he runs Alex's Lemonade Stand which raises money for cancer research and this year they have partnered with STEPS. He said that on the lemonade cups, there will be 'the 5 things you should know about STEPS.' Steve showed examples of t-shirts and the cups artwork that would be used for the project.

Law Enforcement Sector:

Officer Tom Gallo, committee member, reported the following:

1. Officer Tom Gallo reported the following that taken off of Monthly Arrest Log:

There were 7 drug arrests in June: 7 of the arrests were between the ages of 17-22, 2 Arrests for Possession of Less Than ½ ounce Marijuana; 3 Arrests for Sale Of Marijuana; 1 Arrest for Sale of Illegal drugs.

There were 16 drug arrests in July: 11 of the arrests were between the ages of 17-22, 1 Sale of Controlled Substances; 1 Sale of illegal drugs; 6 Possession of less than ½ ounce Marijuana; 1 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; 1 Possession of Marijuana; 1 Illegally Obtaining Drugs;

There were 6 drug arrests in August: 4 of the arrest were between 18-22; 4 Possession of Less than ½ ounce Marijuana; 4 Possession of drug Paraphernalia; 4 Conspiracy to Commit Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. There were also 3 arrests for Possession of Alcohol by a Minor (ages ranged between 16-18)

On 08/16/16 SPD made 43 Simple Trespass arrests on the property of YMCA Camp Sloper the ages of the people arrested ranged from 16-25. All of the people spoken to said they heard there was going to be a party there via Social Media.

During fiscal year 2015-2016 (July 1 2015 through June 30 2016) SPD Officers administered NARCAN 11 times. So far in Fiscal Year 2016-2017, SPD Officers have administered NARCAN 5 times.

Kristen Guida asked Officer Gallo if the Narcan recipients were repeat offenders and Tom said yes. Steve said that in the light of that information, maybe at Convocation next year he does need to give some of those cold facts to get them into a more serious mode. He thinks it should be uplifting at the end but really make sure they are getting a bigger picture. He thinks they need to know it's an important issue and there are things that can be done in town. Officer Gallo said that Officer Naranjo would be happy to come in and talk about issues that are facing the high school students. James McAloon said it would be great to hear from an actual officer. Kristen Guida said that she'd also be happy to offer stories and James said they would welcome people to talk about the reality of things.

New Business: none.

Next Board meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Southington YMCA Administrative Building Meeting Room.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Fenwick