

Youth Services Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2014 – 5:30 pm.
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room

Present: Bill O'Brien, Melissa Petrone, Brian Keldsen, Rebecca Stearns, Denise Morell, Carol Wiggins, Laurie Rogers, Katelyn Rogers, Dan Leavitt

Also Present: Dick Szegda, Joel Rosenberg, Alyssa Gwinnell, Jonathan Luiz, Carmen Vance, Bernadette Derring.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 5:32.
2. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Dick Szegda thanked Rebecca Stearns for her hard work and dedication to youth services. Jonathan Luiz stated Columbia is very lucky to work with AHM, they are a professional and well run Youth Service Bureau. Brian Keldsen thanked AHM for everything they have done for Columbia. Joel Rosenberg thanked those from Columbia. Alyssa Gwinnell stated that Cheri Rivard-Lentz is a great resource At Horace W. Porter School.
3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Contract Between AHM and Town of Columbia:** AHM and BOS approve 5 year contract. Bill thanked Dick, Jonathan, and Joel for working together to finalize the contract.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Introduction:** Completed after meeting called to order.
 - b. **Open Discussion of Youth Services:** Dick explained the benefit of bringing community leaders together a few times a year to discuss and review youth services. Bernadette Derring discussed the success of the TASK program that connects Columbia youth with Columbia seniors. She believes the program could be expanded. Joel suggested program expansion could be funded by fundraising, grants, and/or private donations. Columbia has not participated in the AHM phone-a-thon, but should think about participating in the future. Fundraising and involvement are important for future growth of youth services. Jonathan asks how "at-risk" youths are identified and serviced. Alyssa stated that all Porter staff is aware of AHM services, so school personnel identify youth who may be exhibiting signs/symptoms. Cheri Rivard-Lentz is then notified and she works directly with the youth and families. Joel would like to see more people sit on AHM Board of Directors. There are presently two open seats on the Board. Joel also discussed the mental health fund and the "Take Back" event on April 26th.
5. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Received: April 23, 2014
At 8:30 am
Witness: Gabriel M. Benefield
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk