

Minutes  
**TOWN OF COLUMBIA**  
**Youth Services Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 2017 – 5:30 pm.**  
**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room**

**Present:** Maureen Allen, Greg DeCarli, Alyssa Gwinnell, Dan Leavitt, Bill O’Brien, Melissa Petrone and Carol Wiggins

**Other:** Richard Szegda

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order at 5:33pm
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2016 MEETING**  
Approved 7-0-0
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**  
None
4. **NEW BUSINESS**  
None
5. **OLD BUSINESS**

**Prescription drug and heroin epidemic**

Prescriptions drug and heroin epidemic discussion. Discussion of whether and how this should be brought to the whole town and this was suggested by Carmen Vance. It would be open to the public, not just those invited. From a personal experience and as an older citizen thought these types of discussions were important for all ages and not everyone may know this information.

**Youth Service Committee vacancies**

If you know anyone who is interested have them contact Bill O’Brien.

**Update from Andover Hebron Marlborough Youth and Family Services (AHM)**

Denise Morrel and Michelle Hamilton not in attendance, so report tabled.

Szegda shared that he is the Co-chair JRB and have been this busy, and mostly drug related, mostly marijuana, but probably because kids won’t admit to anything else, but have been successful.

The thought was that JRB generally stays away from cases involving drugs. It was shared that the cases are usually referred for a different reason, but it comes out through the process that kids are smoking marijuana.

**Update from Resident Trooper DeCarli**

Crimes against children workshops in Texas. Human trafficking as a topic.

It is a topic in other communities as well as Connecticut is a pipeline. Discussion about this continued. Question about overlapping this with topic on drug use, but thought to be distinct topics and can be overwhelming if together.

**Update from Horace W. Porter School**

Kindness matters focus at the school and discussion occurred.

Still working on Harlem Wizards and \$1900 grant(?) to use towards initiative – want to make this town wide.

**6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Any new drug concerns we need to be made aware of?

A: Vapes cigarette, etc – hardly any smell. Same rules as regular cigarettes.

What about legalizing Marijuana – heard this was up for consideration.

A: They are not aware of social costs and implications. Now that it is in Massachusetts, but has been pushed from a year from now to sell it. Now it is always laced and more dangerous. Adolescents are our most critical age group who will have more access. The more access they have to it, the more we are going to see it in baked goods. People are bent on self-harming activities. It is based on raising money.

**7. ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm