

Minutes
TOWN OF COLUMBIA
Youth Services Committee
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room

Present: Greg DeCarli, Alyssa Gwinnell, Dan Leavitt, Bill O'Brien, Melissa Petrone, Carol Wiggins and Denise Morell.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order at 5:32pm
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 11, 2017 MEETING**
Approved 6-0-0
3. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**
None
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
May 10th, 2017 YSC meeting: Open discussion to youth services issues with community leaders and citizens.
There was a consensus among committee members the topic for discussion at the May 10th meeting would be on ways to educate the community on the opiate epidemic.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**
Youth Services Committee vacancies

Suggestions: Pastor Betsey Polglase and Marc Volza.

If members know of anyone who is interested in joining the Youth Service Committee have them contact Bill O'Brien.

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

Bill distributed a written update from Michelle Hamilton who was unable to attend today's meeting. Bill also distributed flyers from AHM regarding upcoming events which include Nature and Adventure Day, Fourth Annual African Drum and Dance Party and Screenagers.

Denise Morell reported Hebron Maple fest. Telethon is coming, meeting last night and sign-up sheet is available. Teen center is being used to capacity and is looking for ideas to revamp. Want to get people to the building, as it is underutilized. Wellness activities and different age groups? Any other ideas? Question from committee regarding changes to FOISN and how that affects other services. Drug Drop off box was to be installed at AHM today, available 24/7.

Update from Resident Trooper DeCarli

A 5th grade parent has a child who is interested in giving a presentation on the advantages of having a drop box. She will be sharing this with 5th grade DARE students. Looking to be involved in promoting the next Take back the Night Event.

Update from Horace W. Porter School

Harlem Wizards will be done in September, not enough time will be in touch.

Looking to have a sign placed by road with redesign of firehouse/entry to school.

Read Across America on March 2 and Alyssa read to several classes.

Porter Pride highlights all grades.

Basketball team: Girls one NEMSAC championship. Boys up to championship and lost. Both undefeated season.

Music will have a on May 15th there will be an assembly featuring Tony Memmel, an award winning singer-songwriter, speaker, clinician, and composer for 3rd-6th graders.

Teen Center in school: Panther's Lair.

New after school program: March madness.

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown will be on March 30: 3:30 & March 31:7

Question around Power of Words coming back to Porter.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Carol Wiggins attended the Opioid Academic Workshop in Tolland on February 8th. The panel included the speaker, and several other local social service workers. There was a book recommendation: *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* by Sam Quinones.

It was agreed we need to recruit kids for both the YSC and AHM.

7. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm