

## Youth Services Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – 5:30

Members Present: Bill O'Brien, Carol Wiggins, Trooper DeCarli, Marc Volza, Denise Morell, Dan Leavitt, Town Administrator Mark Walter.

Audience of Citizens: Cheri Rivard-Lentz, AHM.

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:34pm.
2. Approval of Minutes: Revised Minutes from the 5/10/17 meeting were approved.
3. New Business:

There was follow up discussion from the 5/10/17 meeting where substance abuse issues and overdoses in town were discussed. At that meeting, there was a question of creating a brochure that could be accessible to town residents, and/or given out by first responders, to educate and inform residents of how to look for warning signs related to substance abuse and/or where to get help.

There was discussion about the 211-Info line ([www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org)) where people can access info on programs in CT. It is accessible by phone or online. Staff from 211 may be willing to come to a YCS/town meeting to provide an info session on their services and educational material. In addition, it is likely that they have some substance abuse treatment brochures available that could be provided to the town. Bill O'Brien will speak with Peter Starkel to determine if he is aware of 211 and what it can offer to residents. In addition, Columbia residents have some access to substance abuse supports and services through our affiliation with AHM. AHM employs an adolescent substance abuse clinician who can help assess a youth for treatment needs and make referrals if needed.

Cheri Rivard-Lentz from AHM provided a presentation to review the services that have been implemented for residents and students in Columbia.

There was a review of all of the services that have been provided. It was noted that there have been 60 Columbia students who have participated in the JRB and TASK programs, equating to approximately 400 man hours.

The Power of Words program was presented to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades to promote kindness, resulting in the implementation of some "Kindness Days" at Porter School.

New this year – a peer mentor program was initiated.

The students have begun a project to complete a Kindness mural at the school, with the help of some local artists.

4. Old Business: no new updates from the Resident Trooper's office, or Parks and Rec.
5. Committee member comments: none. Next meeting date: 9/13/17
6. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.