

The Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture

Minutes for Special Meeting September 22, 2020

Video Conference – Meeting via Google Meets

Members Present: Diane Lasher-Penti, Kayla Condron, Jay Terbush, Kathy Larew, Gillian Paseka, Joy Hollister, Jane Roets, Fiona Armstrong, Amy Darling, Mary Bartley, Beth Tautkus

Call to Order: Diane Lasher-Penti called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Introduction and Welcomed members back for another year of DPYC

Approval of Minutes: Motioned by Jane R. and seconded by Mary B. to approve and all accepted the minutes of March 10, 2020

Unfinished Business: None reported

Administrative Reports:

Prevention Coordinator: Kayla C. reported on what she was been working on since she started in August. Close to Home Postcard and Revised of Close to Home Magazine, Dettera Bags and Mental Health Magazine. Her goals for the coming year, vaping prevention, sexual assault prevention, mental health awareness and diversity programs including parent support group for LBGQT community.

Rise Above: Gillian reported that the meeting have not started yet this year. Diane L.P. reported on changes to the Rise Above due to the Coronavirus with smaller group meeting and no large community events.

Youth Services: Diane reported on the work they did this through the shut-down and summer, including outreach bags and outdoor programming. Starting in October program will either be help at the senior center for social distancing or on-line. We are currently working on emotional tool kits for families to help with increase in stress, anxiety, depression due to the coronavirus. Diane also reported working with the school district to set up the suicide prevention programs this year and the new SEL team work meetings.

New Business:

Budget and Request for Funds: Diane L.P. reported on the same budget funding at last year. We will need to think outside the box in spending due to the restrictions of the coronavirus for safety.

Program/Initiatives: Kayla C. reported a workgroup of community members will starting to help create a campaign and programs/services around prevention/awareness of sexual assault.

Survey: Diane L.P. reported that she will be working with the schools this year to see if they want to do the survey (every four years) this spring or wait for another year.

Diversity and Awareness Campaign for youth in Ellington: Diane L.P. announced a subcommittee of DPYC on creating a celebration of diversity and inclusion in Ellington. She meet with a small group of parents who wanted youth services to do something similar to the “Rainbow Bridge”, simple but impactful show of support and acceptance for people of color in this community. The Council held a discussion on the meaning of diversity and inclusion. Gillian spoke of how much the art students in school would want to be involved especially if we did a traveling mural like Kayla C. suggested in the discussion. All agree this needs to the youth driven with adults has advisors. Diane will contact the HS art teachers to set up a meeting to start the discussion. Joy H. reported on the Town’s diversity committee starting next month.

Adjournment: Mary B. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., Kathy L. seconded all approved.