



TOWN OF VERNON

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VERNON YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
MICHELLE HILL, DIRECTOR

**YSB Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021
3:00pm- 9 Elm St. Youth Services
Draft Minutes**

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1. Welcome and Introductions

The Director welcomed everyone and all in attendance introduced themselves.

Members in Attendance: Marie Mecca, Justin Hicks, Terri Ouellette, Laura Bush, Amy Watt, Kim McTighe, Officer Greg St. Pierre, Julie Halpin, Michelle Hill

Program updates:

The following updates were provided by the YSB staff members:

- a. YSB After School Program
The YSB afterschool program is anticipated to begin in October once the YSB Program Assistant staff opening is filled. The YSB also has Youth worker position openings as well. Once staffed the program will run Mondays- Thursdays for children in 1st-5th grade.
- b. YSB at RHS
Kim McTighe provided an update for the Youth Services office at Rockville High School. Currently a major focus has been assisting with the establishment of a 3rd party mental health provider at the High School. Youth mental health needs have been affected greatly and negatively affected due to the pandemic related issues. Having an onsite mental health services will help increase access to necessary services.
- c. Juvenile Review Board
Julie Halpin provided an update for the Juvenile Review Board. She shared that the JRB has been meeting in person and is well caught up with cases. Julie shared that over the summer she participated in Restorative Justice practices offered through the Connecticut Youth Services Association. Restorative Justice practices focus on helping youth take accountability for their actions and repair harm where possible. The JRB will be discussing the best ways to incorporate restorative practices in the JRB process.
- d. Summer Youth Employment and Learning
Kim McTighe shared the YSB was able to provide 12 students with a summer youth employment and learning program experience this past summer. Students worked in a variety of workplaces including Youth Services, Childcare Centers, Vernon Public Schools, Walgreens, and Vernon Park and Rec. This year YSB collaborated with Vernon Public schools to extend funding to allow students who were able to continue to work in to the fall.

e. Summer Food Service Program

Michelle reported that this past summer the Vernon Public Schools continued to sponsor the Summer Nutrition program. Due to Covid, VPS became a Summer Food Services Sponsor and therefore has managed the SFSP program, which was administered by the town in previous years. VPS and YSB will continue to work together to ensure the SFSP program will continue to operate.

3. Collaborations:

a. Vernon School Readiness Council update

Capacity Building grant:

Michelle shared that the VSRC received a grant to help strengthen the capacity of the Vernon School Readiness Council. The funds will be used to coordinate and elevate parent voice, increase the diversity of the Council's membership, and gather data to plan strategies which help improve local early childhood systems.

b. Local Prevention Council update: Vernon R.O.C.K.S coalition

Michelle reported that the Vernon ROCKS Coalition had its annual meeting over the summer and that Kim McTighe was recognized for being the Coalition member of the year. The Student Survey Results for substance use were shared. Vernon ROCKS will use this data to guide strategies

4. Funding updates (2021-22)

21-22 Funding updates were shared

5. Members' comments, questions, and sharing.

Members shared the following:

- The YMCA is holding a fundraiser Gala on November 6th to support their Annual Sustaining campaign
- Thursday, October 28th is the Vernon Truck or Treat event coordinated by Vernon Park and Rec.
- HVCC also has a youth employment program that operates year-round.

7. 2021 Meeting dates and times

The next meeting date will be scheduled for January.

Meeting was adjourned

**Respectfully submitted by:
Michelle Hill**