



TOWN OF VERNON

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VERNON YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
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**YSB Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Draft Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
3:00pm**

3 Elm St. in the Union Congregational Church Conference Room

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1. Welcome and Introductions:

Members present: Marie Mecca, Kim McTighe, Eric Osterday, Laura Bush, Amy Watt, Justin Hicks, Julie Halpin, Michelle Hill

2. Program updates/ discussion:

- YSB Summer Fun Club at VCMS
Julie provided an overview of the YSB Summer Fun program at VCMS, which provided a positive youth development program for 16 children. Highlights included weekly swimming trips to Camp Newhoca, fun enrichment programs through the UCONN School of Puppetry, and the Humane Society. Children enjoyed being able to use the gym, play outside, and were also able to eat lunch and have a snack while in the program.
- Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP)
Kim provided an over view of the SYELP, which was in its final week of operation for 2022. Out of approximately 25-30 applicants thirteen students were placed in one of eight job work sites based on their interests with in the town/community. Students started with employability skills training provided by Hockanum Valley Community Council and then jumped right in to their job settings. Kim reported that the program is going very smoothly.
- Leaders in Training Program
Offered as a new program this year, the Leaders in Training program was a 2-week program designed to provide students age 13-15 with basic Camp Counselor skills training along with field experience in which they were able to shadow a Counselor at one of the Park and Rec Camps. This program was developed to help provide meaningful learning experience for youth not quite old enough to get a job, while also helping to develop a work force of future camp counselors.
- Diversion Programs-
Juvenile Review Board- Julie provided a JRB update. Over the course of Fiscal year 21-22, there have been a total of 41 open cases. As this new year starts additional cases continue to be referred and will be scheduled for the fall when the JRB meetings become regular again.
Truancy- The Schools have been handling many of the truancy cases internally, however the YSB continues to be a resource if needed.
Service Review Team- The YSB is in the process of finalizing referral forms. Once finalized they will be shared with the team, along with other community partners including the schools.

3. Collaborations:

- **Vernon School Readiness Council (VSRC) update**
Vernon Better Together Initiative- Michelle provided an overview of the Better Together Initiative, an initiative of the Vernon School Readiness Council, focused on lifting up parent voice, and strengthening the capacity of the (VSRC) to help address system wide needs to support the healthy development of young children. Currently there is a parent survey which

has been shared through multiple media platforms which will help inform strengths as well as opportunities for Vernon's birth – 8 system to improve and grow.

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

Annual Meeting update- The Vernon ROCKS Annual meeting was held on July 28th at the Rockville Public Library. The Coalition celebrated this year's achievements and honored the Coalition member of the year.

Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance checks- Alcohol and Compliance checks were conducted this year to help prevent youth access to substances. 5 out of 19 Vernon businesses were out of compliance, for tobacco, 4 out of 16 businesses were out of compliance. A list of compliance check results can be found on the Vernon ROCKS website at

www.vernonrockset.org

RHS Partnership- Vernon ROCKS, YSB, and RHS are teaming up to provide this year's prevention activities for high school students. Vernon ROCKS will be at freshman orientation and Parents night to spread awareness and recruit new Coalition members, including students for the REAL TALK student led Campaign. Other planned activities include the Community basketball tournament, and Internet Safety education program, the traditional substance free annual Volleyball Lock in event, and the Mock Car Crash.

4. Funding updates (2022-23)- Michelle shared the funding update for FYE 22-23.

Vernon YSB funding 2023

Town budget	SDE Cost sharing grant	Enhancement funds & supplemental funds	Amplify local prevention council funds	Summer Youth employment and Learning	School Readiness &SR E	School Readiness Capacity building
\$270,411	\$21,135	\$12,890	\$5,342	\$33,124	\$319,864	\$22,800
		\$7940			\$3,881	

7. Members' comments, questions, and sharing.

Marie shared information about Pippin at Playhouse on the park.

Eric shared information about HVCC's job skills training program.

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by:
Michelle Hill