



# TOWN OF VERNON

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VERNON YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU  
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**YSB Advisory Board  
Draft Minutes for Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022  
3:00pm**

**3 Elm St. in the Union Congregational Church Conference Room**

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

The following participants were welcomed: Julie Halpin, Terri Ouellette, Amy Watt, Justin Hicks, Michelle Hill, Kim McTighe

### 2. Program updates/ discussion:

- YSB After School Program- Michelle provided an update that the YSB afterschool program is fully staffed and currently has 11 children enrolled, leaving some openings. The YSB will be holding the annual holiday family dinner in December for the program participants which includes a bag of gifts for each participant, a warm dinner, and a celebration with their friends and family.
- YSB- Homeschool Hangouts program – Julie provided an update. The Homeschool Hangouts program was held this past fall for families who home school their children. The program will begin again at the end of January and will be held at Center 375. Families who have participated have expressed very positive feedback.
- Diversion Programs -Juvenile Review Board- Julie Halpin reported that she currently has 33 active cases. 19 cases are open, 11 have completed JRB requirements. It is common to have build up of cases in the fall from late spring and summer months, because JRB does not meet as frequently, but cases have started to slow down a bit.
- YSB at RHS- Kim reported on YSB at RHS activities.
  - Peer Advocates- Twenty peer advocates graduated last spring leaving 5 returning participants. The program has been publicized and 25 students will be interviewing. It will be a rebuilding year.
  - Prevention activities- The YSB has partnered with Vernon Public Schools to offer an Internet Safety presentation by Internet Safety Concepts on February 13<sup>th</sup> at both the Vernon Center Middle School and Rockville High School for the students. The YSB will sponsor the student presentation and Vernon Public Schools has arranged for a virtual parent presentation the same evening.
  - Kim is also working with a school social worker to run 2 Girl Circle groups.
  - Crisis Intervention- Kim continues to serve as the liaison to connect students with the Village for Families and Children's Clinical services provided within the school as needed and is available to provide other support and referrals for students that have a variety of needs.

### 3. Collaborations & Outreach:

#### • Vernon School Readiness Council update

Vernon Better Together Initiative (VBT): One main focus of VBT is to strengthen the capacity of the Vernon School Readiness

Council through promoting parent voice and leadership. A parent survey with over 50 responses has been collected and will be

analyzed to better understand what services, resources, and programs in our community families have benefitted from and what

barriers they may have experienced in finding resources to help meet their family's needs.

We have also been holding a series of free seasonal themed events for families with young children to promote community

connectedness. These have been held in collaboration with the library. They include:

October: Pumpkin painting

November: Thankful Hearts and Crafts

December: Winter Arts and Crafts

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

Drug Take Back event – Held October 30<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with Walgreens and the Vernon Police Department. 67.4 pounds were collected.

November Community Basketball Tournament- is planned to be held 11/17 at Rockville High School. Teachers, and School

Resource Officer will participate with students in a 3 on 3 basketball tournament. It will serve as a fun substance free event with

the goal of building positive relationships among adults and peers.

Trunk or Treat: Vernon ROCKS and YSB participated at the Town’s October Truck or Treat event hosted by Vernon Park and Rec.

Was a very well attended event with approximately over 400 children participating.

**4. Funding updates (2022-23)**

**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 \$7940	\$5,342	\$33,124	\$319,864 \$3,881	\$22,800

**7. Members’ comments, questions, and sharing.**

-Hockanum Valley Community Council will be offering food pick up for holiday meals Mon- Friday starting 11/ 14. No sign ups

required. [www.Hvcchelps.org](http://www.Hvcchelps.org) for details.

- Park and Rec’s Arctic Splash, a fundraiser for camp Sponsorships, will be held 12/3/22 at 1:00pm.

- The YMCA will be holding their annual fundraiser at Ellington Ridge Country Club. For more info go to [www.ghymca.org](http://www.ghymca.org)

Submitted by: Michelle Hill