

Madison Youth and Family Services Board  
Minutes November 1, 2011

In attendance: M. Cohn, K. Dess, C.J. Gladstone, S. Hoffman, R. Klaskin, C. Richer-Fanelli, Chief Drumm

Staff: D. Melillo, L. Castrilli, M. Balletto, P. Butler

Absent: S. Nesci, L. Hagan, A. Goldberg, A. Wilkins

**I. Meeting opened at 7:10 pm**

**II. Approval of October 4, 2011**

Motion to approve the minutes from October 4, 2011 was made by K. Dess and seconded by S. Hoffman. Motion accepted.

**III. Student Reports**

- Home Coming will be Nov. 5, 2011.
- Rachel's Challenge was a very successful presentation. Rachel's Challenge is to be kind to one person and they in turn be kind to someone else—a chain reaction. There were posters on the bridge for students to pledge to be a part of Rachel's Challenge.
- The high school had the accreditation.
- Football team is 7-0 doing great this year.
- The band teacher, Mr. Fasano passed away and a lot of teachers and students attended the services. He was employed by Madison Public Schools for over 30 years.

**IV. Staff Update- Melissa Balletto & Peggy Butler-Youth Development Coordinators**

David introduced Melissa and Peggy

- Melissa-Youth Development Coordinator, was worked at MYFS for 7 years, oversees the Safe Rides Program on Friday and Saturday nights. There are 7 students in the Core Group, who run the program and get students to sign up for the shifts. There are 130 student volunteers involved in the program. All the shifts are filled until the end of December.
- Juvenile Review Board is a diversion program for kids who get in trouble and the JRB offers an alternative. Counseling, community services and restitution are among the alternative options.
- Peer to Peer mentoring program at Brown School with 32 students, (16 matches) This year there are half boys and half girls.
- School based mentoring is a program with students and adults. There are only two matches right now but Melissa will talk with the Guilford School System to get ideas on their success with the program.
- L.I.F.E. ( Live Intoxicated Free Everyday) program, Melissa and Erin run this program and they are having a pasta dinner/silent auction on Nov. 18 to raise money for programs that the students would like to see at the high school.
- Peggy, Youth Development Coordinator, works with Melissa on a Girl's Group program on Mondays at Polson. They will start this program when the fall sports are over. It covers body image, clichés, creating a supportive environment and support for each other. There are 8 – 15 students in this group.
- The board would like to see if the guidance counselor at Polson would be interested in doing a group like this for boys. Peg and Melissa will share their information with Don Cramer.
- Peer Helpers is a program for 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There are three training groups a year with about 15 students in each group. The students are nominated through a survey by

their peers and also nominations from teachers. They go to a training at Camp Hazen and then have a 6 week training. The Peer Helpers do community service projects, help with the food baskets and are working on a project to collect money for Neighbor 2 Neighbor to be donated to needy families.

**V. Correspondence**

Liberty Bank is looking for nominations for the Youth in Action Award. Looking for one student in grades 6-8 and one student in grades 9-12 who has engaged in extensive and outstanding service and/or philanthropy that enhances the quality of life in our communities. Nominations must be received by November 18, 2011.

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

**A.** Motion made by K. Dess and seconded by S. Hoffman to approve a Special Appropriation for \$8,000 to address the shortfall in energy assistance. Unanimously approved.

**VII. Discuss the Idea of an Effort to Get Churches and the Temple to Help with Heating Costs**

This was Joan Walker's suggestion. She was not at the meeting. Robyn will talk to Joan.

**VIII. Review of Donations Account**

The Board reviewed the donation accounts and discussed options to utilize the donations. K. Kess made a motion to approve \$5,000 of uncommitted donations for fuel assistance to Madison residents in need. S. Hoffman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**IX. Election of Officers (December)**

L. Hagan is stepping down from the executive board. S. Hoffman said she would take position of Treasurer-(Lynn Hagan's position) Also, need a new secretary to step in for S. Sadowski, who resigned from the board, K. Dess volunteered to take position for secretary. Slate of Officers to be voted on will be:

Chair: Robyn Klaskin  
 Vice Chair: Maggie Cohn  
 Secretary: Kathleen Dess  
 Treasurer: Stephanie Hoffman

The times of the executive board meetings might be changed.

**X. Sunshine Fund**

No report.

**XI. Director's Report**

**A. Staffing Update**

- New Coalition Coordinator is Catherine LeVasseur. She worked for Governor's Prevention Partnership. She will start on November 8, 2011.
- The Family Therapists position is still not filled.
- Ellie Gillespie is leaving. She got a full time job at the Senior Center. So we will begin the process of looking for someone to fill her position.

**B. New Statistics**

This is tabled until next month. The new system will be discussed next month, it is more complicated.

**C. Public Information**

There was a Safe Rides article in the Source last week. Another article on fuel shortage was in the Source the week before and Marj was Person of the Week at the beginning of the new school year. The next article will be an interview with Taffy about the Peer Advocates.

Robyn also talked about the Arts Barn. She is very pleased that there are many volunteers. There was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade dance and 217 students showed up. There also was a Haunted House put on by FOMY and 210 people came through the Haunted House and there were a lot of student volunteers. It was a big success.

**XIII. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm was made by C.J. Gladstone and seconded by S. Hoffman.